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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on 28 May 'Extraordinary' Arab Summit

Iraq To Deliver Invitations

JN1005121490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Envoys of President Saddam Husayn will leave next week for Arab capitals with invitations from his excellency to their majesties the kings, their excellencies the presidents, and their highnesses the amirs of the Arab countries to attend the extraordinary Arab summit, which will begin officially in Baghdad on 28 May.

This was announced by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz during his meeting today with the Arab ambassadors accredited to Baghdad.

INA has learned that the foreign minister told the ambassadors that in light of the Arab countries' approval of the call by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to hold an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, and following consultations with the fraternal Arab countries and the Arab League's secretary general, envoys of President Saddam will leave next week for Arab capitals with invitations from his excellency to their majesties the kings, their excellencies the presidents, and their highnesses the amirs to attend the conference.

The foreign minister also told the ambassadors that President Saddam Husayn invites their majesties the kings, their excellencies the presidents, and their highnesses the amirs of the Arab countries to come to Baghdad on 27 May so that the summit will begin its official meetings on 28 May.

The foreign minister also told the Arab ambassadors that in accordance with the wish of some Arab countries to prepare for the summit, Iraq is calling for a preparatory meeting for the Arab foreign ministers on 22 and 23 May in Baghdad for this purpose.

Khaddam To Represent Syria

JN1005153690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 9 May 90 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Capitals, AL-ANBA', news agencies—[passage omitted] A ranking Arab official has told AL-ANBA' that Syria will ultimately attend the Arab summit. However, the Arab official added that it will not be represented by President Hafiz al-Asad, but by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The Arab official said that Iraq insists on convening the Arab summit in Baghdad at the end of this month, probably on 28 May. The official added that Iraq communicated this to the Arab capitals, asserting that it will not attend any summit in any place other than its capital. The official said that within two days Iraq will dispatch envoys to the Arab capitals, including Damascus, if it agrees to receive an Iraqi envoy.

The ranking Arab official also said that Iraq rejects any meeting between the two [Iraqi and Syrian] leaders prior to the summit and that it is ready to discuss differences with Damascus after the summit.

Al-Asad's Presence Sought

JN1305151890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 May 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that joint Libyan-Algerian efforts are being made in conjunction with current Arab efforts to ensure Syria's participation in the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled for 28 May.

Official Libyan sources have said that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will attend the Baghdad summit and that he intends to visit Damascus to ensure Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's participation.

'Arafat, Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Damascus Together

JN1205171390 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 May 90 p 1

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] AL-ANBA'—Official Palestinian sources in Tunis have confirmed that Libya and the PLO have agreed to act jointly to achieve Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation and to normalize Palestinian-Syrian relations.

The sources added that, during a meeting on 30 April in Tripoli, president 'Arafat and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi agreed on the need to make Arab efforts to deal with current circumstances that are blocking pan-Arab resolutions corresponding to the level of threats against the Arab world in general, and Palestine and Iraq in particular.

The sources said that 'Arafat and al-Qadhdhafi have also agreed to visit Baghdad and Damascus together, provided that Libya makes prior arrangements for 'Arafat to be received as a head of state in Damascus.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'Fighters' Arrive in Baghdad From Amman

JN1105134090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 May 90 p 1

[Text] Palestinian sources have told AL-ANBA' that the forces ordered by president Yasir 'Arafat to leave Amman for Baghdad do not exceed 400 fighters. The sources add that these forces have actually left Jordan and arrived in Baghdad.

Egypt

MENA Previews Mubarak's Soviet Union Visit

NC1305072890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0525 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union will begin on 14 May at the invitation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and will be the first by an Egyptian president to the Soviet Union in 18 years.

This visit will undoubtedly give a new impetus to the development of Egyptian-Soviet relations because Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev will hold bilateral talks. These talks will reflect Egypt's desire to deepen relations with friendly countries and to strengthen them constantly and continuously so as to serve political action at the highest levels, to contribute to local development and construction efforts, and to highlight Egypt's active and effective role in the international area.

The talks will include a number of issues, foremost of which will be the Palestinian problem, the issue of Soviet Jews' emigration, and ridding the Middle East of weapons for comprehensive destruction. The two leaders will also discuss bilateral economic relations. A number of economic and cultural agreements are expected to be signed during the visit. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak's meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev comes in the wake of Mubarak's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who had already visited the Soviet Union and held talks on a number of issues that President Mubarak will discuss there, such as the problem of Soviet emigration to Israel. During President al-Asad's visit to Moscow, Soviet leader Gorbachev denied that his country had concluded a secret agreement with the United States allowing the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also stated that the Soviets and Syrians had asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take measures to halt the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. He added that the Soviet Union wants closer cooperation with the Arabs on this issue.

During his visit to Moscow in April Dr. Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the Egyptian People's Assembly Arab Relations Committee, was told by several Soviet officials that the Soviet Union has not agreed to the establishment of a direct air route between Moscow and Tel Aviv for transporting Soviet Jews.

The Middle East issue will top the agenda for discussions, particularly as both countries have identical stands on the need to achieve a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution in the region and on the need to hold an international peace conference. In this regard, the Soviet Union stressed in April that it still believes that there is a need for holding the international peace conference to resolve the Middle East problem and that the conference should be held by all parties concerned—including the five permanent Security Council members—and held under UN supervision in order to ensure that a just solution to the Palestinian issue is reached.

Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev will also touch on President Mubarak's recent initiative that calls for removing all weapons of comprehensive destruction from the region. The Soviet Union expressed satisfaction with this initiative on 10 April.

Egyptian-Soviet relations in various areas are witnessing a period of prosperity. Talks are under way to prepare a five-year trade agreement that would achieve a big increase in the two countries' trade volume. Work is also under way to draw up a long-term program for work until the year 2000 in the scientific, technical, economic, and commercial fields.

A new sphere of action in the two countries' cooperation is the establishment of joint companies in Egypt and the Soviet Union for manufacturing furniture, cosmetics, and perfumes—industries in which Egypt enjoys worldwide fame.

A trade protocol between Egypt and the Soviet Union was signed on 14 January totalling 700 million pounds sterling. That is an increase of 75 million pounds sterling over the 1989 protocol. [passage omitted]

Commentaries on Mubarak's International Tour

AL-JUMHURIYAH

JN1305195490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Advancing the Diplomacy of Development"]

[Text] The importance of President Husni Mubarak's current historic tour lies in the importance of the topics he will discuss during the tour. The tour confirms the good relations linking Egypt with nations of the world, in both east and west, and advances the diplomacy of development President Husni Mubarak has adopted since he assumed power. This diplomacy exploits mutual good relations with the nations of the world to serve development in Egypt, and industrial, agricultural, and productive development projects in general. This diplomacy seeks to obtain the international community's understanding of economic reform plans in Egypt. This will undoubtedly reflect positively on the views of world financing funds regarding investment in Egypt and the development of economic reforms here.

Based on this, the agenda of talks with the PRC leaders has touched on Mubarak's initiative to make the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction, especially since this is a basic step that would enable the states and peoples in the region to devote their time to social and economic development. It will also give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, especially since peace is the shield and hope that will turn development plans into tangible reality, provide

resources to implement these plans, and eliminate threats inherent in increasing tension and attempts to undermine stability. Within the framework of relations between the two countries, President Mubarak will discuss with the PRC leaders what the PRC can do to help the ambitious development plans in Egypt. This takes into consideration the fact that the two countries' economic policies give priority to relations among Third World states, to unifying their efforts to alleviate the heavy burden of world debt, and to reactivating dialogue between North and South in order to establish a new balanced world system in light of current international developments in the interest of all mankind.

Cairo Radio

NC1305141790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 May 90

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "President Mubarak's Visit to the PRC and its Positive Effects on our Domestic Issues"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Mubarak's talks with the PRC leaders have resulted in an agreement on increasing the volume of trade and exports of Egyptian products to the PRC, and granting major facilites to importers and exporters in both countries. The PRC expressed readiness to contribute to Egyptian development projects. The two countries agreed to boost economic cooperation, particularly in agriculture.

The strengthening of ties between Cairo and Beijing is of major importance not only to Egypt alone, but also to the entire Arab world and Arab issues in general. Cementing ties with the PRC would strengthen economic and political cooperation with one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. This, in itself, is very important. Egypt is seeking to further ties with the largest number of countries possible to enable the Arabs to enter dialogue from a better position, particularly amid the current international developments, changes in East Europe, and plans to unify Europe and the need to cooperate with it in a way that will serve our momentous issues.

Mubarak's talks with the PRC leaders were not limited to bilateral issues and ways of promoting them. They also dealt with Arab inues and the challenges facing the Arabs. The two parties demonstrated agreement on most regional and international issues. They welcomed international detente, as it serves the whole world. The two parties believe that Third World countries must participate in the detente dialogue as this will have positive repercussions for these countries and will lead to the resolution of the major issues confronting the world today. Foremost among these is the Middle East issue, which means the Palestinian issue. The PRC emphasized its support for the Palestinians and backing for an international peace conference. Beijing displayed enthusiasm toward President Mubarak's initiative on freeing the Middle East from nuclear and chemical weapons. In addition, the PRC exhibited an interest in the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the obstacles it places on the path of peace in the region. All these are positive stands in the interest of the major issues that concern our Arab world.

Presidents Mubarak's current tour of the PRC and the visits that preceded it and will follow are primarily intended to serve our domestic issues and the Arab nation's causes. Foremost among these is the Palestinian people's cause and the need to regain their legitimate rights and their right to determine their own future, and convene a peace conference that would restore security and peace to the whole region.

Butrus Ghali Interviewed on Lebanese Crisis

NC1205183590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1635 GMT 12 May 90

[Interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by unidentified Lebanese reporters in Cairo on 12 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Dr. Ghali, we would like to start out by thanking you for granting us this interview. Let's begin with Lebanon. What is your current assessment of the Lebanese crisis, and what has Egypt done and what is it doing now to resolve this crisis?

[Ghali] In 1944, the Alexandria agreement was signed. This agreement laid the groundwork for formulating the Charter of 22 March, 1945 which established the Arab League. The Alexandria agreement had a special clause on Lebanon. Since then, Egyptian policy has aimed at:
1. Guaranteeing Lebanon's political independence.
2. Safeguarding Lebanon's territorial integrity.
3. Rejecting any attempt to divide Lebanon.

This is the policy to which Egypt has been committed ever since that date. We support Lebanese legitimacy and call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. We reject and will resist any attempt to partition Lebanon. This is Egyptian policy.

There have been circumstances that did not particularly help Egypt to play a significant role toward the realization of the aforementioned goals. Over the last few weeks, however, there has been a rapprochement between Egypt and Syria. Before that there was a rapprochement between Egypt and Libya and between Egypt and other Arab countries. These rapprochements will help Egyptian diplomacy to play a more active role with regard to the achievement of these goals. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Dr. Ghali, you said Egypt supports legitimacy in Lebanon. How will Egypt translate its support for Lebanese legitimacy? Is it going to send military equipment to the Lebanese Army?

[Ghali] Egyptian support will take a diplomatic form, on the bilateral and the multilateral level. This means that Egypt will defend the desired objectives within the framework of the United Nations, the Arab League, and

the Nonaligned Movement. Egyptian support is above all diplomatic support that will reveal itself in bilateral exchanges with friendly countries, such as the United States, the USSR, and EC countries, or in the framework of international and regional organizations.

[Reporter] Is there any proposal to implement the al-Ta'if agreement by using a joint Arab force?

[Ghali] This question should be addressed to the Arab League. We hope that this issue will be discussed at the coming Arab League meetings. An Arab summit will be held in Baghdad and we hope that the summit would look into such aspects. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Dr. Ghali, how could the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement reflect on the situation in Lebanon? How true are the reports that speak of a Syrian-Egyptian dispute over the Lebanese crisis?

[Ghali, questioning] Dispute over....

[Reporter] A Syrian-Egyptian dispute over the Lebanese crisis. There were reports to that effect during the last summit.

[Ghali] I have no such information. I was away from home during the Damascus meeting and do not have any detailed information about any such crisis. What I will say is that the dialogue which took place between Cairo and Damascus will, as a matter of principle, help the search for a solution to the Lebanese crisis. I do not want to go into details. So long as there was a crisis between Cairo and Damascus, it was hard for us to play a positive role in settling the Lebanese crisis. Now that viewpoints are getting closer and that dialogue is starting between Egypt and Syria, we hope that this dialogue will help resolve the Lebanese crisis, or at least will lead to an active contribution by Egyptian diplomacy toward resolving the Lebanese crisis.

[Reporter] Dr. Ghali, you said that Egypt's assistance to Lebanon will be on the diplomatic level. Is there an Egyptian position or view concerning this issue, that is, concerning not giving military assistance, or is it that Egypt cannot offer such assistance?

[Ghali] Actually, as I said, the object of diplomacy ...[changes thought] I am speaking in the framework of diplomacy. The role of Egypt is to provide diplomatic help for Lebanon. As for the provision of non-diplomatic assistance, this is not the domain of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Moscow 13 May

NC1305181090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Moscow this afternoon to take part in the official talks which will be held between the Egyptian and Soviet leaders tomorrow. In a predeparture statement, Dr. Ghali said that President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union is the culmination of a stage that has witnessed continued progress in Egyptian-Soviet relations over the past three years. The visit, Dr. Ghali added, aims to promote and bolster the relations between the two countries in the various spheres. The two leaders will discuss issues of mutual concern relating to Arab, African, and international affairs.

Editor Analyzes Damascus-Cairo 'Rapprochement'

JN1305175590 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 May 90 pp 4-5, 15

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Damascus, the First, But Not Last, Love"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The current rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus takes place under completely different circumstances and is based on a sound and comprehensive outlook:

1. Cairo has learned from long experience that, while there can be no war without Egypt, there can be no peace without the Palestinians and the Syrians.

2. Damascus, for its part, has learned from long experience that the search for strategic parity without Egypt is like betting on the unknown and leads only to a mirage.

3. Both Cairo and Damascus have learned from the bitterness of their long estrangement that sharp polarization serves neither the cause nor the region, and that they can only be served through balanced relations with all parties in firm Arab solidarity that enables the Arabs to use their international status to best advantage.

We sat down with President al-Asad for more than an hour and a half, trying to explore directly his view of the dimensions of the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement. His words, perhaps, were the same as we are used to hearing, but they definitely take on a new, clearer, and more explicit meaning this time.

Al-Asad says:

—Yes, we talk about strategic parity and the need for it, but strategic parity does not concern military power alone. Military power is, no doubt, important, but it is only one of many factors—modernization, knowledge, science, production, and, above all, Arab solidarity—which can enable the Arabs to achieve strategic parity with Israel.

—Yes, we have refused direct negotiations, and we still do. But we accept the international conference. Within the framework of the conference's various committees, there will be direct negotiations with Israel. We are more anxious than the Israelis that the conference not have the right to impose solutions on the parties concerned, because Israel's friends in the conference outnumber ours, and are more powerful.

—Yes, we support a just and comprehensive peace. We are not advocates of war, and we do not want a new war if the comprehensive settlement gives back to the Arabs the territories occupied in 1967. Concerning the Golan, I am sure the Israelis would rather have peace with Syria than retain the Golan.

—Yes, there is an active U.S.-Syrian dialogue, and we certainly sense some progress in the U.S. position on the issue of peace. There are many points of agreement between the Americans and ourselves, but we still disagree over some issues.

When we examine these words and read between the lines, we really see it is difficult to find major differences to justify the long estrangement between Damascus and Cairo.

In al-Asad's comprehensive conception, strategic parity means that the Arab-Israeli conflict is essentially a cultural conflict that requires the Arabs to make full progress in every field. Direct negotiations are not unacceptable, because we must, of necessity, meet and talk with the Israelis under the umbrella of the international conference. The international conference should not have the power to impose solutions on the parties concerned. New changes in the world dictate that we refrain from placing the burden on our friends or declaring our good intentions to our enemies because, ultimately, the question hinges on our ability, as Arabs, to achieve true solidarity that raises the level of effective Arab action.

This Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement places upon Cairo's shoulders the great burden of resolving the complicated and ponderous legacy of differences between Damascus and Baghdad so that Arab solidarity can be as effective as desired. [passage omitted]

With his well-known frankness, President Mubarak had to stress the following to both sides:

1. Cairo's relations with both Baghdad and Damascus will not be at the expense of either country. By virtue of its long experience, Cairo knows the great harm that the policy of alliances inflicts on Arab action.

2. Cairo will not be part of any effort to isolate any Arab country, as this would inevitably lead to division and fragmentation. It could also lead to the lack of Arab action because, for many reasons, any Arab country would prefer to let every opportunity for common Arab action pass in order to avoid having to make the difficult choice between two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Columnist Charges USSR 'Swindled' Egypt

JN1105153090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 May 90 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] In a book I wrote about Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union, I stated that if we were to be accurate and fair, we would have to conclude that it is the Soviet Union that is indebted to Egypt rather than the other way around. The USSR sold us obsolete equipment at exorbitant prices, and paid the lowest rates possible for whatever goods it purchased from us. Furthermore, we supplied the Soviet Union with free services: We have spread communism on its behalf in the Arab world and in Africa; we fought a war on its account in Yemen; and the Soviet Union sold us out to Israel in 1967. It is the Soviets who should be paying us, not the reverse. My book abounds with specific examples.

Each passing day brings to light startling revelations about how the Soviet Union swindled Egypt. It was aided and abetted in that effort by gangsters in centers of power who put themselves at the disposal of the Soviet Union. Some of them worked as spies and were then exposed. It has even been alleged that it was the Soviet Union that killed Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir after he had begun to ignore its dictates. He lost favor by wanting to fight Israel when the Soviets wanted otherwise. Following its defeat by Israel, the Soviets wanted to keep Cairo under their tutelage.

One of the facts to come to light recently is that the Soviet-built High Dam electric power station has many defects. When Egypt sought to have the station repaired, the United States, France, the FRG, Japan and Italy came forward with grants—some of them nonrepayable, others repayable over 40 years and at an interest rate of no more than three quarters of one percent.

Egypt has had to build electric power stations and repair what the Soviets had botched at the cost of $1.1 billion, which was made available by the West. It turned out that the lifespan of the Soviet turbine was eight years compared with the 40 years of its American counterpart. All the inferior Soviet-made computers and electronic equipment have been replaced by superior and more durable Western products.

When it is said that the USSR has helped us, it must be said at the same time that it more than offset its costs, and that we were charged prices higher than international rates. We must also bear in mind that the performance of some of the Soviet-made equipment left much to be desired. And yet we paid for these low-quality purchases only to buy replacements from the West.

It was a bitter experience to do business with the USSR on its terms. Moscow had a say in the appointment of this or that official, even naming government ministers. Even Egypt's education policy and television programs were not spared Soviet interference.

Footnote by the columnist:

Twenty-five years ago, such an article as this would have cost the writer his freedom and life. The same fate would have befallen the chief editor and the censor and perhaps even the information minister himself. And therein lies the difference.

Police Arrest Palestinians for Arms Possession

NC1105192190 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Egyptian security authorities recently arrested Abu-'Ali Shahin, one of the leaders of Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council [FRC], along with 11 other members of the same movement, on charges of possessing weapons at a Palestinian camp situated on the common borders of occupied Palestine and Egypt.

Abu-'Ali Shahin had been released from a Zionist prison after serving a 15-year sentence. He became an FRC member by a majority of votes at a recent FRC session. The PLO remained silent over the Husni Mubarak regime's arrest of Shahin and the other 11 FRC members.

Libya

Chad Allegedly Admits to 'Unlawful Seizure'

LD1205195590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] The Chadian Government has admitted, through its ambassador in Paris, to the unlawful seizure of Libyan trucks operating in the transport service between Libyan and Sudan.

The JANA political editor made the following comment:

The statement of the Chadian ambassador is an official and outspoken admission that the battles between the Chadian Government forces and opposition were taking place in the heart of the Sudanese territory 400 km from Chad's borders. [passage omitted]

This irresponsible behavior on the part of the Ndjamena government comes as part of the general line characterizing that government, which never let go of fabricating and publicizing incidents to aggravate the situation just before every meeting that might be agreed upon by the two sides. The incident of seizing Libyan trucks came a few days before the meeting of the joint committee, which the two sides agreed to convene in Tripoli.

The president (?does not) hesitate at this time to talk about what he calls Libyan prisoners. This tends to poison the air and to create conditions that do not help to convene this meeting or the work's success.

This time the Ndjamena government should carefully reconsider its calculations.

Commentary Decries 'Act of Piracy'

LD1305202990 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 13 May 90

["The Political Editor—Commentary"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The ambassador of Ndjamena to Paris claimed that the Libyan lorries which were subjected to an act of piracy inside the Sudanese territory last week were driven by Libyan agents selling military supplies to the rebels.

The political editor in JANA commented on this. He said: According to this logic all material and goods between Libya and Sudan will be subjected to this definition and consequently will be subjected to piracy. This exposes the nature of the government of Ndjamena before the whole world that it is merely a brigand and not a government by any standards. The editor asserted: Clearly Libya and Sudan have the right to defend their communication roads, vital interests and to repel the aggression.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Invitation to Summit

JN1305212990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (INA)—Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has received a written message from President Saddam Husayn inviting him to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

Muhammad Hamzah, transport and communications minister and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, delivered the message when the Libyan president received him here today.

INA has learned that President al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the invitation and said he would be pleased to take part in the summit in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy arrived in Tripoli earlier today on a tour that will also take him to Mauritania to deliver a similar message to Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Sudan

Government Accuses Chad of Unfair Media Campaign

EA1305212490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement. Since the launching of the National Salvation Revolution, Sudan has always accorded special care to the neighboring countries generally—and to relations with Chad in particular. This stems from the principle of the (?special) relations which bind the two fraternal countries, and from Sudan's (?concern) for Chad's problems and its profound concern for Chad's territorial integrity. Thus, Sudan has made continuous determined efforts to find a solution to the strife hampering development in that fraternal country.

The Sudanese Government has put forward initiatives aimed at clearing the atmosphere and containing the current dispute between the Chadian Government and the Chadian opposition forces, which retreated to Darfur after the coup attempt in Ndjamena in April, 1989. Several high-ranking

delegations have traveled to Chad to confirm the long-standing good relations between the two countries. This week's meeting in Ndjamena, attended by a Sudanese delegation headed by a National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, can serve as evidence of Sudan's intentions to improve cooperation.

The most recent initiative in that direction was a message sent by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to his brother, President Hissein Habre, conveyed by Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister, and the reception by Sudan of a Chadian delegation following that. However, despite the subsequent initiatives and goodwill shown by Sudan toward solving Chadian problems, the Chadian Government has embarked on an unfair media campaign against Sudan. Sudan reacted with self-control, in order to maintain brotherly and neighborly relations.

However, this (?prompted) Chad to violate Sudanese territory, and its forces engaged in all forms of looting and plundering. They abducted a number of Sudanese and Libyan citizens. Those citizens were on an ordinary trade journey between al-Kufrah [southern Libya] and [word indistinct], when the Chadian forces waylaid them and seized their property. From the position of concern for neighborly relations, we demand that the Chadian Government release the abducted Sudanese and Libyan (?citizens), that it ensure their safety (?and the safety of their property) until they are in the hands of the local authorities in Darfur, and that it compensate the innocent Sudanese citizens whose businesses were (?raided).

From this standpoint, in order to preserve the security and stability of the region, and to help eradicate tension, we stress again Sudan's absolute desire to (?strengthen) fraternal relations and ties with neighbouring Chad. We stress the Sudanese government's readiness to make every effort necessary to achieve reconciliation in Chad—which will save the blood of the sons of the one homeland.

We announce to the world that the National Salvation Revolution, which has inherited this problem from the past, has offered (?a chance) and given its views and advice from a position of neutrality. It has refused to be a part of the [words indistinct] between the two (?battling sides). We emphasize that Sudan will exercise its full rights in (?defending) and safeguarding its territorial integrity and unity.

Reportage of Battle in the Upper Nile Area

Initial Government Success

EA1005224990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Our amed foces have succeeded in repulsing an outlaw attack launched 8-9 May in the Melut area [Upper Nile]. Our forces inflicted casualties on the outlaws: 10 were wounded, and 10 captured. Our forces also seized a large quantity of various weapons and ammunition. The outlaw force was composed of nine detachments supported by tanks and artillery mounted on jeeps. Our forces suffered one missing and four wounded—but in good condition.

Forces Withdraw

EA1305204290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 90

[Statement from the General Command of the People's Armed Forces]

[Text] On 8 May, our valiant forces in the Melut area, in the Upper Nile region, repulsed an attack by the outlaws [Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA] following an engagement lasting one hour, and our forces inflicted heavy losses on them. The details are as follows: 10 dead, 10 captured, 500 wounded. Our forces also captured the following weapons and ammunition: 11 Kalashnikov rifles, 25 Kalashnikov magazines, one RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] Mark 7, eight RPG rocket shells, and four 95mm mortar magazines. Four of our valiant men were wounded in the battle, as announced earlier.

The outlaws repeated their attacks on the position on 9 and 10 May, intensifying their attack by using additional support forces. This compelled our forces to join a section of our forces which was maintaining the security of the area. Our forces will return to their position again, with God's will and support.

SPLA Reports Capture of Town

EA1105161990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces of the Bright Star campaign, phase 2, yesterday captured the strategic River Nile port garrison of Melut in northern Upper Nile. Forces of (Zaajan) force two started the attack on Melut at 1630 on 9th May 1990, and the garrison fell yesterday, and the gallant (Zaajan) forces are now in full and contested [as heard] control of Melut Town and the surrounding countryside. Remnants of the enemy's Melut Garrison fled to Kaka [north of Melut] and others are being pursued.

The fall of Melut is very strategic as the SPLA now controls the river transport and Malakal is cut off from Kosti. Melut is midway between Malakal and Renk, and any boat moving on the Nile must first obtain SPLA clearance. [martial music]

SPLA forces of the Bright Star campaign, phase two, sector two, are now moving on Gelhak and Renk [both north of Melut], while Bright Star campaign, phase two, sector three, forces are moving on Kaka. The Bright Star campaign Sector 2 commander here issues a strong appeal to the enemy garrisons at Gelhak, Renk, and Kaka to start talking with the SPLA and join hands together with the SPLA to expel al-Bashir and his junta before they finish and transform the Sudanese Army into a National Islamic Front [NIF] Army.

Al-Bashir's junta has just put 600 fanatics into the military college at Wadi Sayyidna [just north of Khartoum] to graduate soon as officers. It is a matter of time before al-Bashir murders or dismisses non-NIF officers and replaces them with fundamentalist officers. We ask the present officers in the Army, why defend this regime? Gelhak, Renk and Kaka must cooperate with the SPLA, otherwise you give us no option but to fight you. We also appeal to the river's transport workers not to accept to come and die for al-Bashir's NIF junta.

Heavy Government Casualties

EA1105181790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 May 90

[Excerpt] In a related development, SPLA forces of the Bright Star Campaign, phase 2, and New Funj campaign started fighting in all of Maban, Yabus, and Chali in [the] south.

On 2nd May, 1990 the forces of the New Funj laid a deliberate ambush at the junction of Chali-Yabus and Maban-Yabus road. The enemy convoy was dispersed in the jungle, leaving nine bodies in the place of the ambush. Three enemy soldiers were captured. [passage omitted]

National Islamic Front Selected for Training

EA1005230090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] A reliable source in Khartoum has informed Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] that some 600 militia men of the National Islamic Font have been selected for training at the military college. The source added that the 600 militia men are being prepared by the junta to take over command and to replace the officer cadres of the Sudanese Army, following the continuous dismissals of the officers in the army and the police. Our reliable source at the General Headquarters in Khartoum has confirmed that already over 100 officers have been dismissed within the last few days.

Bahrain

Iraqi Minister Conveys Invitation to Summit

JN1305183390 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Manama, May 13 (QNA)—The Iraqi presidential envoy and Minister of Interior Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab left here this evening after delivering a written message to H.H [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message includes an invitation to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on May 28.

The Iraqi minister who visited Kuwait and Bahrain will also visit Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Amir Receives Messages From Sudan's Al-Bashir

JN1105172790 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Manama, May 11 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from the Chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir dealing with issues of common concern on the Arab and Islamic levels and bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by the Sudanese ambassador to Bahrain 'Abdallah Farah during his meeting with H.H. the Amir here today.

After the meeting, the Sudanese ambassador praised Bahrain's pioneering stands towards Arab issues and Arab unity to face dangerous challenges besetting the Arab nations.

Kuwait

Amiri Decree Defines National Council Venue

LD1405113390 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Decree number 69 in the year 1990 defining the venue of the national council: After taking cognizance of the amiri order issued on 27 Ramadan 1410, corresponding to 22 April 1990, regarding the establishment of the national council; in accordance with the submission of the chairman of the Council of Ministers; and following agreement by the Council of Ministers, we decree the following:

Article 1: The national council will convene at the premises of Majlis al-'Ummah in al-Khalij al-Arabi Street.

Article 2: It is the responsibility of the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the ministers, each from his position, to implement this decree, which will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah.

Issued in Bayan Palace on 18 Shawwal 1410 corresponding to 13 May 1990.

Detained MP's, Opposition Figures Released

NC1305071090 Paris AFP in English 0545 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 13 (AFP)—The authorities have released two former MP's [members of parliament] and eight other opposition figures arrested last week for rejecting the establishment of a new national council, official sources said Sunday.

The sources said former MP's al-Ahmad Khatib and Ahmad al-Baqir and the eight others arrested last Tuesday were released Saturday after each paying between 50 and 300 dinars (170 and 1,020 dollars).

It was not immediately known whether the sums were fines or amounts put up for bail, and it was unclear whether the 10 would have to face trial.

Dr. al-Khatib, a prominent figure in the Arab world, was arrested along with seven others for trying to resist efforts by security forces to halt an unauthorized public meeting in the outskirts of the capital, Kuwaiti officials said.

Mr. al-Baqir and a colleague were detained for allegedly distributing illegal leaflets.

Both were members of the last Kuwaiti parliament, which was suspended in 1986 after the government charged that MP's, who often opposed legislation proposed by the cabinet, had abused democracy.

The two are among 32 former deputies, including former house speaker Ahmad Sa'dun, who have rejected a formula for restoring parliamentary life proposed last month by Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah.

Shaykh Jabir has announced that a national council of 50 elected members and 25 others appointed by himself would be set up as a transitional body to decide on ways to modify previous parliamentary practices and discuss legislation.

But the ex-MP's say there is no provision for such a structure in Kuwait's 1962 constitution and want a full reinstatement of parliament. They have called for a boycott of national council elections set for June 10.

A total of 561 candidates have registered for the elections and launched their campaigns.

S. Yemeni Official on Ties, Yemeni Unification

LD1305140290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0728 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 13 (KUNA)—South Yemen's deputy foreign minister has praised his country's excellent relations with Kuwait and appreciated her mediation role in resumption of diplomatic ties between Aden and Washington.

Dr. Shaiye Muhsin [name as received] also commended in press statements published here Sunday, Kuwait's attitude from the two parts of Yemen and her role, at difficult times, of bringing the two sides' position closer for unitary action. [sentence as received]

The official, who is here in the course of a tour of several countries including Canada, described the process of unification between the two Yemens as irreversible and hinted that complete unity between North and South Yemen might be realized before [the] scheduled [date of] next November 30.

On the proposed extraordinary Arab summit, tentatively set for May 28 in Baghdad, Dr. Shaiye renewed Yemen's approval of the summit as necessary for evolving an Arab unified stance to face international challenges.

However, he bitterly criticized the Arab stance on the Palestinian Intifadah, saying Arab support to the uprising is regrettably not at the required level of this great event.

Asked on a date for declaration of Yemen's unity, the official indicated that most steps had been accomplished and that what remains are only procedural matters, hoping complete unity would be announced earlier than scheduled on November 30.

He concluded by announcing that the People's Assembly in South Yemen would soon approve a bill organizing existence and activities of political parties and organisations.

PDRY

South Yemeni Coverage of Unity Meetings

Al-Bid, Salih Meet

EA1105194790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The two brothers, Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Conference, together with a number of officials of the Yemeni homeland's leadership, this evening continued their meeting and discussions, which they began of noon today in Ta'izz [in the YAR]. This meeting is aimed at finalizing the discussion of issues and preparations for the declaration of the establishment of the [united] Republic of Yemen, which is the glorious strategic objective of the Yemeni revolution and the masses of the Yemeni people.

The [North] Yemen News Agency, SABA, has learned that the meeting examined the outcome of the meeting of the two prime ministers in the capital city of the united state, Sanaa, at the beginning of the current month of May. It also examined the outcomes of the recent meeting in Ta'izz of the political organizing committee and the meetings of the joint military-security committee.

The two brothers, Ali-Salim al-Bid and Col. 'Ali Abdallah Salih, arrived in Ta'izz at noon today accompanied by a number of the officials of the Yemeni homeland's leadership for consultations and to finalize discussions about the steps and procedures which aim at declaring the establishment of the united state.

Comment on Troop Withdrawal

EA1305115890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] Today, brothers Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, held a joint meeting which included a number of the brother members of the YAR general committee, the Political Bureau, the permanent committee, the Central Committee, and ministers.

Brother Col. 'Ali Abdallah Salih gave a speech at the beginning of the meeting and welcomed brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, members of the Political Bureau, the General Committee, the Central Committee, the Permanent Committee, and ministers. He said: Permit me to review the deliberations of the last two days concerning the arrangements relating to the declaration of the state of Yemen. There was a responsible fraternal dialogue on all levels. Matters can be summarized as follows: [passage omitted]

Two: There were deliberations and agreement after a responsible dialogue that the higher national interest required the clearing of the capital, Sanaa, and the economic capital, Aden, of armed forces and their withdrawal to military areas to be agreed upon by officials at the command of the General Staff within the military zones of the state of Yemen. The maintenance of general security in the towns of Sanaa and Aden shall be by means of security arrangements which will ensure the general security.

The view of the leadership is that this is required by the general interest, rather than piling up weapons in the capitals. This will also deny an opportunity to any intriguers [mundassin] to cause a disaster in a direct or indirect manner, God forbid. The brother president said that no honor is bestowed on any official of the united state when our capitals are transformed into disaster

areas. For this reason it is our view that the capitals should be cleared of armed forces, which should be withdrawn to defined military zones. [passage omitted]

A committee has been formed from the ministers of the interior and chiefs of the YAR national security organ and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen state security organ. We have decided that these two organs shall be dissolved with effect from today. From now on, there is no reason for the existence of the state security organ in Aden and the national security organ in Sanaa. Both have been dissolved within the framework of the united state. This is on the basis of our faith in democracy and diversity of opinions.

The brother president added that every Yemeni citizen bears responsibility for the security of the Yemeni state, whether he is an ambassador, a diplomat, a peasant, a worker, a member of the armed forces, or a politician. All bear responsibility for the security of the united state and all form a fence for the national security of the united state. There will be an organ at the Interior Ministry which will be responsible for general security, security in the capitals and the rest of the republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Minutes Signed on Power, Water

EA1205214990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] This afternoon the minutes of a joint meeting were signed by brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals, and Engineer Jamal Muhammad Abduh, minister of electricity and water in the north of homeland. The minutes included the merger of the electricity and water services in the south of the homeland within the Ministry of Electricity and Water of the unified state, in addition to arranging the functions of staff in the offices of the new ministry. The two ministers also reviewed the progress of the implemenetation of electricity projects in the two parts of the homeland, including the linking of the two networks, and discussed later arrangements for implementation.

Meanwhile, Brother Engineer Jamal Muhammad Abduh today made a familiarization tour of the Tarmum thermal station's desalination complex. He was accompanied on his tour by brothers Muhammad Abduh Rajih, deputy minister of energy and minerals, and Muhammad Abd al-Azim, director of the general power corporation.

Qatar

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Invitation to Summit

JN1305201690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Doha, 13 May (WAKH)—This evening, Iraq's Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab arrived in Doha on a two-day visit to Qatar.

The Iraqi minister's visit is part of a regional tour to convey letters from President Saddam Husayn inviting Gulf leaders to an extraordinary Arab summit to be convened in Baghdad on 28 May.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister

LD1205214190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, this evening at his office received his excellency the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, who delivered the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, containing an invitation from President Saddam Husayn to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to convene in Baghdad.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, following the meeting expressed his most sincere wishes that God will guide the leaders of the Arab nation toward whatever serves the good of their people, the realization of their hopes, and the unification of their stand on the road to victory to greater security and stability.

It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, had announced its agreement on attending the summit conference in Baghdad.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz had arrived at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport earlier today, where he was welcomed by his royal highness, the foreign minister and a number of officials.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, has left Jeddah this evening. He was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; the director general of the Foreign Ministry branch for the western region, Salim Sunbul; the director of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Nizar Madani; a representative from the royal protocol; the Iraqi charge d'affaires in the Kingdom; and a number of officials.

Trade Minister Receives Iraqi Oil Minister

LD1305155990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1032 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The fifth Saudi-Iraqi joint committee began meetings in Riyadh this morning under the chairmanship of the Saudi Minister of Trade Dr. Sulayman al-Salim [name and title as received] and Iraqi Oil Minister Isam al-Jalabi.

Yemen Arab Republic

North Yemeni Coverage of Unity Meetings

Leaders Discuss Developments

JN1105201790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], resumed their talks and consultations this evening in the presence of brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister, General Committee member; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, YSP Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and other Yemeni officials. The talks and consultations dealt with unity efforts, and steps and preparations for the proclamation of the birth of the Republic of Yemen.

During meetings today, the Yemeni leaders discussed several developments concerning the Yemeni homeland, and Arab developments. [passage omitted]

Troop Withdrawal, Dialogue

JN1205163190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of General People's Congress [GPC], and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, chaired a joint meeting that included brother members of the General Committee, Political Bureau, Standing Committee, and Central Committee, and ministers.

The brother leader spoke at the beginning of the meeting. He began by welcoming brother YSP Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid; members of the Political Bureau, General Committee, Central Committee, and Standing Committee; and ministers. He said: Allow me to review with you what was agreed in discussions during the past two days on preparations for proclaiming the Yemeni state.

A responsible and fraternal discussion took place on all levels. This is a summary of the outcome:

1. A committee will be formed to hold dialogue with the political organizations, national forces, and Yemeni figures consisting of brothers from the Political Organization Committee represented by the YSP and GPC.

2. Agreement was reached through open dialogue that the higher national interest requires the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from the capital, Sanaa, and the economic capital, Aden, to military areas to be agreed by the Staff Command within military zones of the Yemeni state, and that public security in Sanaa and Aden be maintained through security arrangements that guarantee public security. The leadership believes this is in the public interest, rather than stockpiling arms in the capitals, to ensure that no rebel has the opportunity to cause a catastrophe, directly or indirectly, God forbid.

The brother leader said: No official in the unity state would want its capitals be changed into [word indistinct]. We believe, therefore, that the Armed Forces should be withdrawn from the capitals and kept within defined military zones.

The brother leader said that matters were moving in the right direction. He said: Many different attitudes prevailed in the past, and every person had his own reasons. He added: Let us shoulder our responsibility and celebrate democracy and unity. The people are the source of authority and decisions and the sovereign decision-maker. As officials, we must guide this country in a responsible and fraternal spirit that will prevent catastrophes and problems in our homeland. This is what we want to achieve through these security measures. A committee has been formed including the two interior ministers and the heads of the national security council and the state security service, and, therefore, we have decided that these two bodies are to be considered dissolved as of today. From now on, there is no need to retain the state security service in Aden or the national security council in Sanaa. They are dissolved under the unity state proceeding from our democratic conviction and belief in freedom of opinion and counter-opinion.

The brother leader adds: Every Yemeni citizen bears the responsibility for the unity state's security, whether he is an ambassador, diplomat, peasant, worker, soldier, or politician. Everyone bears the responsibility for the security of the unity state. Everyone forms the defenses of the national security of the pan-Arab unity state. A body in the Interior Ministry will be responsible for public security, security in the capitals, and the progress of the Yemeni Republic.

The brother leader announced that the leaderships of the GPC and YSP will sign an agreement to organize joint action between them in accordance with the Political Organization Committee's recommendations made at its last meeting in Ta'izz.

The brother leader noted that the leadership had discussed preparations. He added that there was now nothing left to discuss, since all topics were discussed during this session and agreement was reached on them in a spirit of national responsibility and conviction. He said: I believe this strengthens confidence and gives peace of mind to all the masses of our people. It gives confidence to all political forces and all those who feared that Yemeni unity in the future would encounter problems, because there are people who are trying to spread doubts on this subject.

Concluding his speech, the brother president said: This is what we wanted to tell our brothers and colleagues in the unified leadership. This is what we discussed. We are

ready to accept any comment on any measure shown to be wrong. We bear the responsibility and we accept the sound opinion of our brothers and colleagues in the unified leadership. This is what I recollect, and now I give way to the brother secretary general to talk about what I have not mentioned.

YSP Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid then spoke. He said: Brothers leaders of united Yemen, I believe that the closer we get to the day of proclaiming unity and establishing the united Yemen, the closer we adhere to democracy as our country increases the scope for it. [passage omitted]

He added: I agree with everything that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has said. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that this bilateral agreement does not impede or end agreements with others concerning any joint action. He said: We hope this agreement will be the beginning of work between ourselves and others. [passage omitted]

Agreement on GPC, YSP

JN1205164890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Brothers 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid have signed an agreement on joint action between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. In their meeting, they approved all the results of the Political Organization Committee's fourth and last meeting in Ta'izz. These include the draft of the basic outlines of political organizations and parties, the draft of the basic framework for political activity by political parties and organizations in the Republic of Yemen, and the document on political and party action in military and security institutions during the transition period. A committee for dialogue among political organizations and forces and social figures was formed, which includes brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani, Muhammad Haydar (al-Usud), Dr. 'Ismat al-Asbahi, [name indistinct], and others.

Brothers 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid met in a closed bilateral session during which they finalized discussions concerning the Yemeni homeland, primarily the preparations for proclaiming the Republic of Yemen.

Joint Minutes Signed

JN1105202290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Brothers Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, member of the Central Committee [of the Yemeni Socialist Party], deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals, and Engineer Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, [Yemen Arab Republic] minister of electricity and water, signed today in Aden, the economic capital of Yemen, the minutes of their joint meetings. The minutes concerned merging electricity and water institutions in both countries under one Ministry of Electricity and Water in the unified Yemen. There are also provisions for organization and manning tables within the new ministry.

The two ministers also reviewed the progress of electricity projects, particularly the electrical linkup project. They also discussed arrangements to be made following the completion of this project.

Reportage on Saddam Husayn's Letter to Iran

'General Contents' Reported

JN1105162790 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10-11 May 90 pp 1, 24

[By Shakir al-Jawhari]

[Text] Baghdad—AL-SIYASAH has learned the general contents of the letter recently sent by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At a news conference in Baghdad last Thursday [3 May], Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz confirmed reports of the Iraqi leadership's letter to the Iranian leadership. He said only that it was a letter of peace. He he did not go into details about it, nor did he specify the channels through which the letter was sent.

AL-SIYASAH has learned from well-informed sources that the letter was conveyed to Iran through a third party—not the UN general secretariat—and without violating UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission between the two countries. The contents of the letter centers on a group of issues as follows:

To begin, President Saddam Husayn explains to Rafsanjani the extent of differences between Iraq and the United States, and the background of these differences, which arises from Washington's hostility to any economic, political, or scientific development or progress in the Arab world. He then asks the Iranian president to reexamine the accusations and the causes of war on the basis of which Iran waged war against Iraq—namely, the pretext that Iraq was implementing a U.S. plan to abort the Islamic Revolution in Iran. In his letter, the Iraqi president pointed out that the establishment of normal relations with the United States is not a crime in itself, because President Rafsanjani is seeking to achieve the same thing despite the opposition of hardliners in Iran. President Saddam Husayn said that the U.S.-British-Israeli campaign against Iraq has enlightened public opinion in Iran about the reality behind these parties' attitudes toward Iraq.

He then spoke about the threat posed by the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel to the security of the Arab and Islamic worlds. He added that Iraq and Iran bear a great responsibility to end the no-war, no-peace situation between the two countries as a preliminary step to unifying the Arab-Islamic front against increasing Zionist dangers. Expressing his good intentions, he offered practical proposals to achieve peace between the two countries. The most important of these proposals are:

First: Iraq is ready to begin a new stage of negotiations between the two countries based on the Algiers Agreement of 1975.

Second: If it is currently impossible to hold a meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian presidents in any of the two countries' capitals, it would be possible to hold such a meeting in Mecca.

AL-SIYASAH sources believes that the latter proposal would also help achieve relaxation in Saudi-Iranian relations.

It was announced in Tehran the day before yesterday that the Iraqi president's letter was referred to the Iranian Consultative Assembly Foreign Relations and Security Committee for discussion. According to reports from Tehran, the Iranian leadership has received the Iraqi initiative positively, in contrast to past Iraqi initiatives.

MENA on Saddam's Letter

NC1305182890 Cairo MENA in English 1748 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 13 (MENA)—The Iraqi message recently sent to the Iranian leadership did not touch on the 1975 agreement between the two countries, an Iraqi diplomatic source said. The source denied in statements to MENA the news reports carried by Arab and foreign media to this effect. The message did not in any way deal with the agreement which was unilaterally revoked by Iran following the overthrowing of the late Shah of Iran, the source said.

The source added that the Iraqi message included a proposal of holding direct talks between Iran and Iraq to solve the Iranian-Iraqi conflict without drawing an agenda or preconditions and in the framework of the Security Council Resolution Number 598.

Leaders To Meet

JN1305180190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpt] It has been learned in Cairo that efforts are under way to hold a summit between Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, possibly in Mecca prior to Baghdad's extraordinary summit on 28 May. Mustafa Bakri, our correspondent in Cairo, reports on this proposed summit and the Iraqi and Iranian positions.

[Begin Bakri recording] The Iraqi and Iranian leaders will discuss a new Iraqi peace plan defining the nature of bilateral dealings on the basis of mutual respect of national sovereignty and the establishment of good-neighborly relations. They will also discuss ways to secure continued contacts between them through specialized committees to study aspects of the conflict under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers and under UN supervision. The sources said that the Iraqi president's message to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, which was delivered by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday, dealt with ways to ensure the success of the anticipated summit, which might be held in Mecca in Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Positive Iranian Response

JN1305135390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1312 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] According to press reports in Jeddah today, Baghdad has received a positive Iranian response to the letter sent by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the Iranian leadership almost two weeks ago, in which he called for resolving the problems obstructing permanent peace between the two countries and the implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598.

The reports cite Iraqi Government sources as saying that the Iraqi proposal to hold a summit between President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a third country received a favorable response from the Iranian leadership, provided that the summit be preceded by arrangements made by the foreign ministers of the two countries in a capital or other city, in, as the Iranian officials termed it, a neutral area.

The newspaper [as heard] said that observers in the Iraqi capital expect the positive Iranian response to break the stalemate in negotiations between the two countries, which are being held under UN auspices.

Media Campaign Suspended

JN1305130490 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 May 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Baghdad—AP: It seems that Iraq has suspended its media campaign against Iran in the midst of reports that the Iranian command has given importance to President Saddam Husayn's letter regarding the attainment of a settlement between the two countries.

An Asian diplomat has noted that the Iraqi government-owned media organs have suspended their daily campaigns against Iran. He said: Surprisingly, not a single commentary against Iran has been monitored in the Iraqi media organs for more than a week. [passage omitted]

Saddam Meets 'Awn, Ja'ja' Representatives

JN1105175590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] We have been informed that two Lebanese officials, the first representing Michel 'Awn and the second representing Lebanese Forces [LF] commander Samir Ja'ja' have been in Baghdad for the past two days. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received them yesterday in the presence of the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Lebanon and other Iraqi Government officials. Their discussions centered on how to end the destructive war that has been raging in the eastern areas of Beirut for the past 100 days. The well-informed sources said that the visit of the two Lebanese officials to Baghdad was taking place at the desire of the Iraqi president, who is trying to end the conflict between Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' before the Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

The sources said the two officials are Brigadier General Fu'ad 'Awn, who is close to Michel 'Awn, and Pierre Rizq, LF command member, and that they left together from the port of Juniyah in east Beirut accompanied by the Iraqi charge d'affaires. The sources added that they are currently coordinating with their respective commands from Baghdad on their contacts to set the conditions for a durable cease-fire that will end the destruction and killings afflicting east Beirut. They are expected to have one more meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Proposes Cease-Fire, Dialogue

JN1305181990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Baghdad today said that Iraq has proposed a cease-fire in the eastern areas [of Beirut] and the start of a dialogue between General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'. This was proposed to the two envoys representing 'Awn and Ja'ja' in Baghdad over the past few days. A number of Iraqi officials, including Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, have received them. Neither official Iraqi sources nor Lebanese Embassy sources, however, have confirmed the presence of the two envoys in Iraq. They are Brigadier General Fu'ad 'Awn, who is close to Gen. 'Awn, and Pierre Rizq, head of the Lebanese Forces' external intelligence service.

'Aziz Makes Statement on Iran, Leaves for Rome

JN1305145490 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 13, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz headed for Rome today leading a delegation for talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, Mr. 'Aziz said he would follow-up with Perez de Cuellar the U.N.-sponsored negotiations with Iran and proposals forwarded by the U.N. chief to prepare for a new round of direct talks between Iraq and Iran.

He underlined Iraq's readiness to enter into direct negotiations with Iran on the ground of the 1988, August 8 accord to reach a joint understanding to provisions of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and their timings and measures, pointing out that Iraq was committed to this principle, serious and sincere stance towards realising just and comprehensive peace in the region. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi official made it clear that he would hold talks tomorrow with his Italian counterpart on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Reportage on 'Aziz Visit to Rome

WA1405152990 For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Italy, and a report on his upcoming meeting in Rome with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, please see the Italy & Vatican section of the 14 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Foreign Ministry Official on U.S., UK Ties

LD1205103990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0845 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, May 12 (KUNA)—A senior Iraqi official has expressed his country's willingness to "establish" what he called natural and healthy relations with any country including Britain and the United States.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry undersecretary Nazar Hamdoun [name as received] told Kuwaiti daily Al-WATAN that joint interest was the cornerstone of any relations, indicating ties with other countries could develop or wane according to Baghdad's policy as to how it should maintain her interests.

"And because relations can not serve a single party, I can say that Iraq is still ready to establish natural and healthy relations not only with America but with any other country even Britain as far as the other party takes into consideration Iraq's interest or more precisely the interests of those who benefit from such a relationship," Hamdoun underlined. [passage omitted]

Asked on the stalled peace process between Iraq and Iran, Hamdoun said his country has no interest in the rekindling of war, saying Iraq's good intentions were expressed in a message of peace sent to the Iranian leadership recently. Content of the message had not been disclosed by either side.

"We hope that there will be a response from their side because we believe that this is a chance which should not be missed in order to find a radical and peaceful solution to the conflict and ensure goodneighbouring relations and stability on our common border and the entire region."

3,365 Kurds Respond to Policy, Return Home

JN1205111190 Baghdad INA in English 1055 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, May 12, INA—Some 3,365 Kurdish citizens returned to Iraq after benefiting from the amnesty decision announced by President Saddam Husayn last March.

In statements to INA correspondent in the northern governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, the Kurdish returnees expressed great joy over President Husayn's human gesture which provided for them an opportunity to contribute to taking part in Iraq's construction march and after getting aware of the lies and allegations of the hireling clique that duped them to leave the country. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Amnesty Extended

JN1205142090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the amnesty decision No. 140 issued on behalf of the Kurds on 17 Sha'ban, 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 14 March, 1990, be extended for another month to expire on 11 June, 1990, instead of 11 May, 1990.

The president's order was the result of the growing desire of Kurdish citizens living outside Iraq to return to their homeland. It is also designed to provide a further opportunity for those who have not been able to take advantage of the amnesty decision.

Hundreds of Kurdish families have recently returned to the homeland, taking advantage of President Saddam Husayn's amnesty decision.

Trade Minister Returns From Monetary Conference

JN1105120090 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 11, INA—Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the minister of trade and acting minister of finance and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad yesterday evening after taking part in meetings of the 34th session of the transitional committee on reforming international monetary system concluded in Washington two days ago.

The trade minister told INA that during meetings of the session there were discussed a report by the International Monetary Fund on world economic prospect, developing countries debts strategy and monetary obligations in arrears of the states, members of the International Monetary Fund and ways of tackling them. [as received]

Arens on U.S. Ties, Pending UN Resolution

TA1205110890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by David Essing on the "Spotlight" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Has there been a steady deterioration in Israeli-American relations lately?

[Arens] I don't think that there is steady deterioration in the U.S.-Israeli relationship. I think that the relationship is well and progressing, and looked at historically I think you can see that the U.S.-Israeli relationship has been getting stronger over the years. No wonder: It is based on very sound foundations of common values and ideals and common interests. That doesn't mean that we always agree. We don't always agree, and I don't think anybody should expect us to always agree.

[Essing] But at the Security Council, the United States is now dealing with the Arab countries, some of the most extreme almost, on an anti-Israeli resolution dealing with Soviet immigrants being settled in Jerusalem and the territories. The State Department spokeswoman said on Thursday that she was confused by some of the statements that you have been making. Is this not an indication of a deterioration in relations?

[Arens] Well, first of all I don't know what she's confused about. First of all, confusion does not mean deterioration. Confusion, in my understanding of the English language, means that something is not fully understood. If she did not fully understand something that I said I shall be happy, of course, to explain and elaborate. As far as I know, we have not had any official representation from the U.S. Government asking for an explanation of anything I have said, and to the best of my knowledge there are really no question marks.

We had been concerned about some of the preparations for presenting a resolution at the UN Security Council. You know that the Arab world, which has been engaged in an active effort to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, has raised the issue at the Security Council. We were surprised, and I add, disappointed, to see that the American delegate at the UN Security Council had been working together with none other than the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen—a country which I believe until recently was on the State Department's list of countries engaged in terrorism, one of the most extreme of Arab countries under a Marxist regime—that their delegate had been working together with the American delegate in putting together the draft resolution that they intended to present for a vote at the Security Council. That was a source of disappointment to us, and of course the contents of that resolution as appearing in that draft was a source of disappointment to us. We are hopeful that the administration will not approve that draft or if that draft is presented for a vote in the Security Council, we are hoping that America will veto it. [passage omitted]

United Likud Cabinet Can Bear U.S. Pressure

TA1005163590 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Good evening, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Shilon] Are you not worried about the steps the United States is likely to take if the Likud forms a narrow-based government? You can perceive the danger in what happened in recent days, in U.S. public opinion, and in the U.S. Administration's positions.

[Netanyahu] I am certainly not pleased with some of these developments, but I would like one thing to be clear: The United States also exerted pressure on the unity government as well as on other governments which I represented in the United States. What matters are not the pressures, but our policy. If we formulate a line of our own; if we speak with one voice; if we explain our position, as we are bound to do—I believe we can both withstand the pressures and attain dialogue and understanding with the United States.

[Shilon] You are talking about a policy. I will not refer to Shim'on Peres' remarks, but rather to those of Ari'el Sharon who said that, because Yitzhaq Shamir has no clear policy, he is leading the State of Israel into disaster. How does this conform with what will happen in the government now that Ari'el Sharon is to become the defense minister, for instance?

[Netanyahu] I think one of the problems of the so-called unity government was the fact that, in practice, there was no unity.

[Shilon] I would like to remind you that there is no unity in the Likud, either.

[Netanyahu] There is more unity than people think, and positive unity, too.

[Shilon] Will there be unity in the Likud even if Ari'el Sharon does not become the defense minister and David Levi the foreign minister?

[Netanyahu] Am I asked this as the prime minister who appoints ministers?

[Shilon] I am asking you as a person familiar with what goes on in the party.

[Netanyahu] There is a difference between appointments and policy. We are ready to outline a policy; we are ready to strive for peace—but only for true peace. In fact, we

want to strive for true peace. I would say we are the only ones who can do it, because—and this is the central point—in negotiations, you cannot be in a position of giving all the time. So far, we have conducted some very complex negotiations, and each time the Likud or the prime minister either made a suggestion or rejected the other side's proposal, Alignment figures, such as Mr. Peres, seized the opportunity to create practical difficulties which made it impossible for us to stand up to pressures; in fact, they invited pressures.

Therefore, I believe the new government must do three things: 1) Formulate one policy. 2) Define, together with the United States, what we can do jointly. I am not a believer in the policy of deception and of not stating things plainly; I think things should be stated just as they are. For instance, we should say: These are the boundaries within which we are ready to promote the process. 3) We must begin promoting the process within responsible and sensible boundaries which are acknowledged and supported by most of the Israeli public.

[Shilon] Can the Likud do it? I am referring to what you said with great confidence earlier: Can the Likud carry out all three points with the expected Cabinet composition?

[Netanyahu] We can do it only with the expected Cabinet composition. We are about to rectify an error in the political sphere. You will remember that the first Likud government, which was much vilified, effected the peace agreement with Egypt after rejecting demands that were totally unacceptable to us.

I am not worried. What matters now is that we establish a government and crystallize its political lines. And since I have this opportunity of appearing on your program, I will add this: We must take speedy action to secure what I have been urging for a very long time: political and electoral reform. I hear the Alignment concurs with this demand, and I urge them to come out and propose it. [passage omitted]

Baker Plan 'No Longer Appropriate' in Region

TA1005120990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 90 p 8

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Hamas Getting Closer to the Americans"]

[Excerpts] The absence of a positive reply to Baker, with the background of the danger of the establishment of an extreme right-wing government in Israel, has more than ever sharpened the question of whether the United States would "punish" Israel, and whether U.S. economic aid to Israel is being threatened.

Undoubtedly, Washington will express its discontent with the political freeze in the Middle East in a manner that might hurt what a right-wing government in Israel might term, Israeli interests. Still, whoever fears that the U.S. aid might be affected can relax. Despite Senator Dole's initiative and Secretary Baker's remarks that the aid to Israel is not an entitlement [last word published in English], the U.S. Administration will not force its interests by adjusting aid.

To appreciate how the Americans will "punish" the party they believe to be at fault for the failure of Baker's plan, U.S. interests must be well understood. To a large extent Israel is considered a U.S. strategic asset in the Middle East. Despite the thaw between the two blocs, Bush's remarks, concerning his fears of a military coup in the USSR, indicate that Washington is not about to let go of its old-time allies. For now, the United States does not have a substitute for Israel in terms of the stability of a regime where almost all political parties, and primarily the two major ones, are pro-American. Khomeyni's revolution in Iran taught the Americans a lesson on the stability of Muslim countries, improving Israel's status.

Therefore, one should believe Baker who, speaking to a Senate subcommittee, said that aid given to Israel is assisting a strong ally. At the same time it should be understood that the same strong Israel, in which the Americans are interested, disrupts their Middle East strategy and could foil complicated moves toward Islamic fundamentalism that are aimed to calm the Middle East. If they decide to act against Israel, it will not be in an attempt to weaken it, rather they will try to force it to change its policies to correspond with their vital interests.

Even if the U.S. Administration wanted to force a cut in the aid to Israel, the Senate and House resolutions, on a reunited Jerusalem as Israel's capital, indicate that Israel has a very strong reputation on Capitol Hill. There is doubt whether the administration would choose this particular issue to confront Congress. Not less important is the fact that there is nothing left to press on. Baker's plan is dead, and if the political process is renewed, it will not be with the limping creature of the previous government. [sentence as received] This time it will involve a much broader process in which neither Israel nor the Palestinians will play the main role, rather they will be important players on a much broader field; closer to international auspices than to direct talks.

At the same time, Amman has taken Cairo's place as the center of Palestinian activity, and Mubarak is leaning more toward Moscow; thus the USSR enters a position of an observer. It is not inconceivable that a joint U.S.-USSR statement will be issued at the conclusion of the summit meeting in Washington this month, should the circumstances call for it. There might perhaps be some formal continuation of the Baker plan, but at the present moment the Middle Eastern scenery is no longer appropriate for it. The wheels of an alternative process are already turning, independent of Israel.

To understand U.S. interests, one should return to the trauma of the Iranian revolution which brought down the regime of the shah, one of Washington's major allies. Now that the Soviets have withdrawn from the Middle East, U.S. interests and pro-U.S. Arab regimes are

threatened by extreme Islam. Washington cannot afford another Islamic revolution in any major Arab country.

The United States is tackling this issue from two directions: An effort is being made to change Iran's radical orientation, and action is being taken to calm the intifadah and prevent it from turning into an armed struggle. The intifadah is perceived as a source of instability for the whole Middle East and a constant threat to the Arab regimes, mainly from the Islamic direction, which is the revolutionary direction in the Arab world since radical national-Marxism lost its power.

There are two kinds of Islamic groups: The Muslim Brotherhood groups, which are tied to Saudi Arabia, and the Hizballah groups, which are linked to Iran. On the Palestinian scene, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is tied to the Muslim Brotherhood, while the Islamic Jihad is affiliated with Hizballah. Saudi Arabia has been using its influence on the Muslim Brotherhood to moderate Hamas and prepare it for a political process. Meanwhile, the contacts on the normalization of bilateral relations which the United States has been holding with Tehran in a bid to secure a deal for the release of the hostages involve Iranian pressure on Hizballah. This pressure may provide Iran with an elegant out to stop "exporting the revolution," a move which would have far-reaching repercussions in the Palestinian arena. These efforts, however, will only yield fruit if the Israeli Government helps in pacifying the Middle East instead of adding to the tension. They will certainly not succeed if Israel adds to the tension in areas concerning religion, such as the issue of Jerusalem, for example. If Israel sabotages the U.S. efforts, there could be a new evaluation meant to determine whether Israel is a strategic asset or a source of risk for U.S. interests.

With Saudi encouragement, talks have begun in Amman between the PLO and the Muslim Brotherhood concerning Hamas' joining the Palestine National Council. This would involve Hamas' agreement to the PLO political platform, which is based on the assumption that any political solution includes recognition of Israel. The contacts are shrouded in secrecy, but last month it became apparent that Hamas has several difficult demands. They do not accept the PLO's political platform, but they are demanding to be heavily represented in its institutions; they want 40 percent. [passage omitted]

The illusion that Hamas is becoming a peace movement must not be furthered. Its leaflets are still filled with anti-Semitism, and the road to reconciliation with the PLO is still long. Hamas, full of self-confidence, is demanding that the PLO "Islamize" and give up its character as a secular national movement. Its demand for 40-percent representation in PLO institutions cannot be accepted. According to former President Carter, such a demand may cause the PLO to have second thoughts. Nonetheless, a clear process of rapprochement has taken place, and Hamas is not trying to hide it. The reestablishment of relations between Saudi Arabia and the USSR could bring about a dramatic shift in relations between secular Palestinian nationalism and the Muslim Brotherhood.

A far-reaching change in the territories in terms of calming the intifadah is, therefore, an essential element in this strategy of eliminating the revolutionary Islamic zeal. This could turn out to be the real test of the new government in Israel. It is doubtful, however, whether an extreme right-wing government will pass it.

CIA Said Linked to Training for Panama Coup

TA1305051490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] Another development in the Antigua arms affair: The CIA knew about the intention to open a special training school for Panamanian exiles in Antigua as part of the secret plan to invade Panama and carry out a coup. The school was supposed to be established by reserve Lieutenant Colonel Ya'ir Klein. According to Klein, it was the Panamanians who financed the purchase of Israeli arms that reached the drug cartel in Colombia.

Meanwhile, the Antiguan inquiry commission ended the investigation it conducted in Israel after it met here with officer Phillip Aharon, who escorted the weapons ship from Haifa to Antigua. According to official testimony that reached our correspondent, the Israeli officer was at a casino while the arms cargo was loaded in Antigua on the ship that sailed to Colombia. Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports on the affair:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] ['Azran] Ya'ir Klein is now engaged in training security officers of public and economic bodies in Israel. He submitted the proposal to set up the school for security personnel in Antigua to the Antiguan Government on behalf of his company, Hod Hahanit. He also intended to train Panamanian exiles there as part of a plan to aid, together with other Israelis, the invasion of Panama. At that time Klein was already engaged in training farmers in Colombia.

It has now become clear that the commander of the small Antiguan Army informed CIA representatives in Antigua of Ya'ir Klein's plan to set up a local school, and they did not oppose it. Still, now that some of the weapons have been seized in Colombia, the Antiguan Government fears U.S. reaction to the fact that it actually served as the front man for smuggling the weapons to Colombia. [passage omitted]

The Antiguan inquiry commission secretly stayed here for six days and was aided in its work by expert U.S. investigators. It is suspected that the order for the weapons deal which reached Israel, like other documents in the affair, was forged. The commission is looking for Morris Tzarfati, an Israeli businessman who has dealings with Antigua, on suspicion that he was behind the affair.

[Klein] There is a reference here to a [Panamanian] government-in-exile that tried to do what the Americans promised all along but did not do. This government-in-exile decided to take the initiative and act.

['Azran] Whom did you meet?

[Klein] I met a military representative of this government, who is currently the chief of staff and defense minister of the Panamanian Army, with whom I kept in touch. It was his people who were supposed to train in that school in Antigua, and he was supposed to lead the invasion of Panama.

['Azran] In other words, what activity was supposed to be carried out in the school you were to set up in Antigua?

[Klein] About 500 fighters were supposed to be trained there in combat techniques for urban and open areas, and finally to carry out their invasion as a sophisticated commando operation without bloodshed—simply to neutralize Mike Harari and remove him from Panama. The aim was to carry out the operation wisely, following intelligence activity held much earlier, with our information and conclusion being that the Panamanians would not fight—and this is exactly what happened when the Americans invaded Panama.

['Azran] When and how many times did you meet the current Panamanian defense minister?

[Klein] The number of times makes no difference. Both the first and last meetings were in Miami.

['Azran] With what weapons were you to train in that school?

[Klein] The training was to take place with the weapons that were supposed to arrive from Israel, with the end user [last two words in English] being Antigua. The weapons indeed reached Antigua. Then, because the Americans canceled the Panamanians' activity, and because the Antiguans did not want to set up a school at that stage, these weapons were returned to those elements in Panama who bought them.

['Azran] At the same time, you had a training camp in Colombia as well. Is there a connection between the Colombia camp and the one slated for Antigua?

[Klein] Colombia is Colombia, Panama is Panama, and Antigua is Antigua.

['Azran] The investigators are checking whether Antiguan Government officials were bribed by those who were behind the arms smuggling to Colombia. Ya'ir Klein insists that the arms shipment was returned to the Panamanians. Businessman Morris Tzarfati is hiding somewhere, while the Americans are not prepared to elaborate on the abortive invasion of Panama. [end recording]

Police Break Up 'Return March' Using Tear Gas

JN1405103190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] A popular march calling for the Palestinians' right to repatriation left Amman today in the direction of the Allenby Bridge on the River Jordan. According to news agencies, some 10,000 people, including 250 deported Palestinians and representatives of 200 Arab professional unions, are taking part in this march, which was organized by the Jordanian Professional Association.

Urgent REUTER and AP dispatches from the Allenby Bridge received a short while ago say Jordanian anti-riot police, supported by at least six tanks, fired tear gas bombs at the marchers to prevent them from crossing the bridge.

Eyewitnesses say scores of marchers were injured and that ambulances began removing them to al-Shunah Hospital near the bridge.

AP says it is not yet possible to determine the number of casualties, however, scores of marchers became unconscious due to the tear gas.

Soviet 'Roving Ambassador' Arrives for Visit

JN1105114590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Mr. Igor Yuryevich Andropov, roving ambassador at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman last night on a two-day official visit to Jordan. He will meet with a number of Jordanian officials to discuss some issues of mutual interest.

Discusses Jewish Emigration, PLO

JN1205210190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 12 May (INA)—Igor Andropov, roving ambassador at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, has condemned the Israeli authorities' insistence on settling Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied Arab territories. He described this as a flagrant attack on the Palestinian people's rights and a violation of international laws, treaties, and charters.

The Soviet ambassador told PETRA - JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY today that his country is studying a PLO request to allow the Soviet Jewish emigrant to retain his Soviet passport so that he can return to his motherland whenever he wishes. He said that the Supreme Soviet Presidium is looking into the possibility of giving all Soviet emigrants the right to return, including those who emigrate to Israel.

The Soviet envoy added that contacts were held between the Soviet Government and the PLO and the Jewish community in the Soviet Union to warn its members of the dangerous consequences of their emigration to the occupied Arab territories, and to stress to them that settlement in these regions is a blatant violation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and an offense against international law.

He called on the international community to support the Arab countries to prevent the continuing Israeli settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. He referred to the Soviet Union's known position on this issue and its adoption of a draft plan presented to the international Security Council last March urging Israel not to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

The Soviet official condemned the inhuman Israeli practices in the occupied territories. He called on the international community to intervene immediately to stop them, because they are aimed against peaceful and defenseless citizens.

He praised Jordanian-Soviet relations, saying they are growing continuously. He added that the two countries' views are identical on the Middle East question and on many international issues. He expressed his hope that economic and cultural relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union would rise to the level of their political relations. [passage omitted]

He concluded the interview by saying that his visit to Jordan is part of a tour of the region including Syria, Egypt, and Morocco, in preparation for the Palma de Mallorca conference to be held in Spain on 24 September. This conference is an adjunct to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in which 35 countries concerned with security in the Mediterranean basin will discuss and confer on political, economic, security, and environmental issues of mutual interest in order to achieve greater cooperation among Mediterranean countries in all fields.

Al-Musawi Says Hostage-Takers Had 'Guarantees'

NC1105125190 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Baalbek, Lebanon, May 11 (AFP)—Western hostage-takers in Lebanon want to end the crisis to help Iran and Syria but will not release anybody until Israel frees Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners, a key figure in the drama said here Friday.

Husayn al-Musawi, a Lebanese Shiite leader widely seen as having close links with the hostage-takers, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the United States could have "un-blocked" the situation but had instead further complicated it.

He said Syria, Iran and unnamed parties had agreed on "guarantees" before the release last month in Lebanon of Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed.

"You don't release an American hostage and then a second one without some guarantees. But I cannot define the nature of these pledges," said Mr. al-Musawi, the head of the fundamentalist Islamic Amal group.

The United States said it struck no deals to secure the release of Mr. Polhill and Mr. Reed on April 22 and 30, while thanking both Syria and Iran for helping to secure their freedom.

Mr. al-Musawi, interviewed at his home in this pro-Iranian Shiite stronghold in central Lebanon, said no more Western hostages would be released unless Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel were set free.

He said the kidnappers wanted "as a priority the release by Israel of all mujahidin (fighters for Islam) and anti-Israeli militants," including those held by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia.

But he added: "Setting free any prisoner in Europe, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or the release of four Iranians and some 2,000 Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians held in eastern (Christian) areas of Lebanon, could have a positive influence on the hostage issue."

Mr. al-Musawi said the kidnappers were "taking into consideration the interests of Iran and Syria," which "wish to improve their world ties and resolve the hostage issue to secure benefits for the Moslems in Lebanon and Palestine."

But he added that the mostly pro-Iranian groups still believed to be holding six Americans and nine other Westerners in Lebanon "will never resolve this situation without something in return."

Mr. al-Musawi, a former leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah group, said the hostages were a burden for their keepers, "creating material, security and moral difficulties."

"After Frank Reed's release, Iran clearly said it could not continue pressuring the Lebanese groups without a reciprocal gesture.

"The ball is now in the American court, they are the ones that can either un-block or freeze the issue," Mr. al-Musawi said.

He said the United States had "complicated the situation" by recent Congressional resolutions naming Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the release of a State Department report listing Iran and Syria as sponsors of terrorism.

Iranian officials, criticising Washington for not responding to the release of Mr. Polhill and Mr. Reed, have urged the United States to use its influence with Israel to seek the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

Tehran has also asked for information about four Iranians seized in 1982 by the Christian Lebanese Forces militia. Washington has said it would try to gather information about them although it believes they are dead.

On whether Hizballah would be willing to release three Israeli soldiers it is reported to be holding in exchange for prisoners held in Israel, Mr. Al-Musawi said he was unaware that any such operation was being planned.

"In any case this kind of exchange can in no way imply Hizballah's recognition of the Zionist entity (Israel) and should be undertaken through the International Committee of the Red Cross or some other third party," he said.

Seven Israeli soldiers have gone missing in Lebanon since the 1982 Israeli invasion, and four of them are believed to be dead.

Some Lebanese media reported that a man seen in film footage of Mr. Polhill's release in Beirut was Mr. al-Musawi's brother.

Questioned on this, the Shiite leader said: "If this is true then it means that Husayn al-Musawi helps release hostages. If it is false, then the resemblance is only coincidental."

Lahd To Exchange 'Detainees' for Western Hostages

NC1405080690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In an interview with AP, General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, has expressed his readiness to release a large number of the detainees he is holding in exchange for the release of 16 Western hostages.

LBC Reports on Syrian-Made Rocket From 'Awn

NC1305054890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpts] Last night the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC] showed a tape containing irrefutable evidence about 'Awn's source of arms. The tape showed an unexploded rocket which fell in the Adma area the day before yesterday after being launched by 'Awn gunmen. The rocket bears the following phrase: The Syrian Arab Republic, 122-mm, Defense Factories. It is worth noting that this rocket was fired from a rocket launcher that 'Awn had recently received by land. The LBC ran

another clip that showed a 13-mm field artillery gun that 'Awn gunmen have installed between buildings in the al-Mansuriyah area. The gun is being used to fire directly at the al-Ashrafiyah area. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to Beirut John McCarthy held an urgent news conference in Washington during which he talked about the fuel and arms being transferred to General 'Awn through some Lebanese parties from Syria.

Al-Huss Stresses Need for Syria at Summit

NC1205080190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 90

["Text" of message from Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss to the foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, and Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi—date not given]

[Text] Greetings. Amid the efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit conference, we cannot conceal our great concern over the negative effect the summit will have on the Lebanese issue if it is convened without first laying the foundation that will ensure its success. We need not draw your attention to the fact that pan-Arab security cannot be adequately discussed at the summit level without an in-depth evaluation of developments in the Lebanese crisis and the Arab Committee's efforts to find viable solutions to this crisis on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement. We cannot imagine how the Lebanese issue can be practically and usefully discussed in the absence of Syria, which has an undeniably distinguished role in Lebanon; that is, if the circumstances of convening the summit should prompt Syria not to attend.

Our greatest fear is that the convening of the summit without ensuring collective participation at the highest level will result in undermining [tafzi'] the joint Arab stand on Lebanon. Should this happen, God forbid, the negative effects this would have on the process of a solution and peace in Lebanon, which started in al-Ta'if under the auspices of the Tripartite Committee, would be grave.

It is on this basis that we welcomed the convening of an extraordinary summit when we received the invitation to attend. Our welcome was coupled with an emphasis on the following three points:
1. The need to ensure Arab consensus on the venue and date of the conference.
2. The need to ensure the participation of all fraternal Arab countries at the highest level.
3. The need to include the Lebanese issue on the conference agenda along with developments in the Palestinian issue.

We sincerely hope that the honorable Tripartite Committee will give this new concern the attention it deserves during the present phase, so that by the time the Arab conference is due to convene, sufficient preparations will have been made to ensure its success. This can be achieved only by ensuring that all Arab brothers attend at the highest level, especially the member states of the honorable Tripartite Committee and Syria.

With my most sincere appreciation and respect.

[Signed] Salim al-Huss

Al-Hirawi, Kolotusha Discuss Lebanese Situation

NC1405110790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha at 1100 today and discussed current security and political developments with him. Kolotusha briefed President al-Hirawi on his country's position regarding proposed solutions for the Lebanese crisis, particularly with regard to implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and speeding up legitimacy's actions to impose its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

Kolotusha said after the meeting that the situation in Lebanon is difficult. He hoped that Lebanon will emerge from the tunnel in which it has remained for the past 15 years. The Soviet ambassador described the situation in East Beirut as abnormal and hoped that this situation would not last for long. He added: When the situation in East Beirut becomes normal, legitimacy can impose its authority over all Lebanese territory. He pointed out that he was briefed by President al-Hirawi on the political and security developments in Lebanon.

Israel Warns Against Continuing Sea Blockade

NC1205124290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] An informed source in the eastern area told our newsdesk today that a high-ranking Israeli official has warned Michel 'Awn and Ja'a' against continuing the sea blockade, stressing the need to restore freedom of navigation to the ports.

Shelling, Sniping Reported in East Areas

NC1405100590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Citizen Salwa Ri'fih died in Juniyah this morning as a result of shelling by 'Awn's gunmen. Ibrahim 'Asakir and his wife Mani and daughter Muna were wounded by the shelling of Kasrawan. They were taken to Sayyidat Martin Hospital.

Coastal and upper Kasrawan were the target of volleys of shells and rockets from the 'Awn emplacements, especially from pinpointed emplacements in Istirahat al-Sayyad, al-Fanar, and al-Shammis in the B'abdat vicinity.

Meanwhile, skirmishes with machine guns and some rocket shells are taking place on East Beirut's newly created combat lines every now and then. Sniping and shelling also were reported in the Hotel Dieu area and al-Ashrafiyah outskirts.

[At 0930 GMT on 14 May, Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic cites "'Awn information media" as reporting that the shelling "from Lebanese Forces positions is covering the areas of al- Qulay'at, Darayya, Rumiyah, Bikfayya, the central al-Matn region, 'Ayn Sa'adah, and al-Fanar. The same media reported that the al-Yarzah army destroyed a Lebanese Forces tank near the Mar Sarkis and Bakhus Church in Rayfun."]

RFL Updates Security Situation in Eastern Areas

NC1205141390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Up until this moment, 'Awn's gunmen are still shelling residential neighborhoods in central and suburban al-Ashrafiyah, the Beirut Port vicinity, and Kasrawan Coast.

According to the latest security reports, shells fell on the coast of Futuh Kasrawan at approximately 1540, while coastal, central, and upper Kasrawan have come under intermittent shelling. The al-Ashrafiyah area is being subjected to violent bombardment with heavy-caliber projectiles.

Meanwhile, clashes involving the use of medium- and heavy-caliber weapons are taking place on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at combat line. Shells also landed in the Ra's al-Nab' area and Marun Misk Street in al-Shiyah, injuring two persons.

'Awn's gunmen caused the security situation to flare up at 1350, when they violently bombarded al-Ashrafiyah, al-Jummayzah, and Mar Mikhayil with field artillery. Just before 1410, a concentrated bombardment was directed against the Beirut Port vicinity while the shelling of central and suburban al-Ashrafiyah intensified. At 1415, the shelling targeted residential areas on the Kasrawan Coast. At approximately 1430, 'Awn's gunmen shelled al-Dawrah with incendiary phosphorous projectiles. The bombardment of central and suburban al-Ashrafiyah with phosphorous shells intensified at about 1445, when clashes were reported on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at combat line. As a result of the use of incendiary shells in the bombardment of residential areas, several fires broke out in al-Ashrafiyah and Kasrawan Coast. Sniper fire in al-Shaluhi-al-Nab'a today wounded citizen Joseph Yammin. He was taken to Mar Yusuf hospital for treatment. 'Awn's gunmen directed sniper fire at the al-Barbir and Ra's al-Nab' areas in West Beirut, injuring a citizen on Corniche al-Mazra'ah highway. He was taken to al-Barbir Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery.

Amal Movement Reports Military Commander's Death

NC1205175890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement issued a statement today announcing the death of 'Ayyad 'Ayyad, commander of the combat squad in the movement's security police corps in the South, who fell on the Humin al-Fawqa combat line in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday, 11 May. The martyr hero was killed while performing his duty in defense of the southern soil and its independent decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

In its statement, the Amal Movement reiterates its adherence to the cease-fire agreement, which aims to restore to normal the situation on Iqlim al-Tuffah's combat lines, out of its desire to support the initiative of 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon. The statement adds that the movement urges all the nationalist forces to adopt a forceful stand on the ongoing events and to perform their nationalist and Islamic duty toward the South and its inhabitants, who are suffering gravely from the continuing bloodshed. It is high time for this situation to end so that the nationalist and Islamic arena may be safeguarded, the statement concludes.

'Awn Repeats Call for Parliamentary Elections

NC1105194390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, Michel 'Awn reiterated his call for holding elections under Arab and international supervision, noting that this is the first condition for a solution. He said if parliamentary elections are not possible, let the people vote in a referendum on proposed solutions. If this is also not possible, he added, let the solution be found by the countries directly concerned with the issue.

He noted that the basic parties to the conflict in Lebanon are Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. A solution is likely to be reached by these three countries, he said.

Paper Urges Syria's Inclusion at Summit

JN1405090290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Time of One-upmanship Has Ended," AL-BA'TH says: Our nation has never, in its contemporary history, been exposed to dangers as grave as the ones currently surrounding it. However, the weakness of Arab ranks throughout the past years is more painful, more dangerous, and more threatening than the gravest danger, represented by the Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territory. This weakness is the result of placing regional interests above pan-Arab interests and following personal interests and whims that exacerbate this weakness.

AL-BA'TH adds: Amid this weakness, changes took place in the world. And Zionism emerged as the first beneficiary of these dangers, signaling the beginning of the most dangerous plot against Arab rights.

AL-BA'TH affirms that al-Asad's Syria was the first to be aware of the danger and caution against it. It sounded the alarm, and the leader of the nation, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, called for solidarity and cohesiveness, affirming that everybody needs solidarity and unity.

AL-BA'TH adds that those suffering from an inferiority complex, megalomania, and conceit looked at the dangers threatening our nation from a personal viewpoint. Those people stopped at nothing to deviate Arab ranks from the sound path. AL-BA'TH asserts that this applies to Iraq's ruler, whose only condition for the summit was adherence to the summit venue, date, and agenda, thus violating the rules of the previous summit conferences in terms of the reasons for convening the summit and consultations to set the venue, date, and agenda.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: This summit, about which many interpretations have been made, might convene with those attending. But, what use is a summit without the participation of Arab Syria, which has always made sacrifices in defense of Arab rights?

Syria Seeks Summit To Unify Not Divide Arabs

JN1305105490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 90

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline: "We Seek a Summit That Will Mobilize Potentials, Unite Rather than Divide", the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its comment today that it is essential for the Arab nation to greatly reduce the stage of difficulties and proceed to one where the Arab solution will be on the same level as the challenges.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which raised the slogan of Arab solidarity, maintained and protected it throughout many years, wants to see a summit that unifies rather than divides. It adds: When a summit is convened, it should be preceded by preparations and an analysis of the responsibilities entrusted to every side during this dangerous stage of this Arab era, for which the Arabs are not envied.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We in Arab Syria, out of concern that every Arab meeting will be an effective meeting, believe that the proposed summit will be nothing more than propaganda, ineffective and devoid of action, so long as many obstacles exist, and so long as these obstacles are employed by those who are unconcerned for Arab unity and rights. Their only concern is that the Arabs remain within the circle of recommendations and statements which do nothing to improve matters.

In one of its comments, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the same topic, pointing out that Syria was the first to warn against the great challenges confronting the existence, present, and future of the Arab nation. The paper says: Syria was the first to call on the Arabs—masses and officials—to move, overcome the state of incapacity, and carefully consider confronting the dangers and challenges.

It says: Rising to the level of pan-Arab responsibility proceeds from points of agreement and consensus, rather than from points of dispute. Fixing the summit venue, which in itself is a point of dispute, is not a successful issue on which to build effective and true Arab solidarity.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: What is required on the pan-Arab level is a summit of pan-Arab work. The summit of work is what Arab Syria wants and is calling and striving for. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Criticizes 'Unilateral' Summit Call

JN1205080090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "The Summit Between Pan-Arab and Individual Interests," TISHRIN says in the "Behind the News" column: Preparations for Arab summit conferences in the past were made in accordance with a special procedure that was respected by everyone. The call for the Arab summit at this particular stage requires a convergence of efforts to face the many changes that are taking place in the world. The call also requires prior agreement—after intensive consultations among Arab leaders—on the agenda, so that a common denominator will be reached, after which the summit venue can be agreed upon. Has this really taken place?

TISHRIN adds: What has occurred is contrary to what took place in the past, especially since the majority of Arab leaders have underlined the importance of the summit. Why, after all this, have some parties called, unilaterally, for the summit? This has occurred despite the fact that this action could entail dangers, indicating that there is a big mistake—that is, if we do not talk about the ill will behind this unilateral call. Despite this,

Syria bypassed this issue and stated that there is still room for consultations and discussions based on the importance of establishing a pure and honest pan-Arab will to assert the importance of common Arab action. Consequently, everyone will participate in the preparation for the Arab summit to serve pan-Arab interests and aspirations.

The newspaper reviews Syria's call for an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to agree on these issues, so that the summit will meet these aspirations. TISHRIN says: This matter is not difficult; in fact, the contrary is true.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is time we rose to the level of pan-Arab responsibility and truly worked to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation. It is also time we stopped the acrobatic shows that focus on individual interests and ignore the dangers facing the nation. In fact, we believe that Arab efforts should not be exhausted in attempts to hold meetings that entrench Arab divisions; rather, they should be working to uproot these differences. In light of all this, isn't it fair to ask if the call for the summit—the way it has been made so far—will really serve the nation's interests?

U.S. Policy Said Subject to Israeli 'Blackmail'

JN1205182390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1110 GMT 12 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Israel's foreign minister has strongly attacked the United States, accusing it of cooperating with Arab countries in order to have the UN Security Council pass a resolution condemning the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. The Zionist minister's attack has surprised the U.S. Administration. The State Department official spokesman described the attack as confusing, because the U.S. representative's contacts at the Security Council were aimed at omitting several points from the original draft resolution on the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland, as well as at moderating the sharpness of condemnation of Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

In fact, the Zionist campaign of criticism against the U.S. Administration is expected to be followed by large-scale activity by the Israel lobby in Congress. It is also designed to blackmail Washington into using its veto to annul the Arab draft resolution, especially since it enjoys wide support. Many countries voiced support for the resolution after being assured that the Shamir government is encouraging Jewish immigrants to settle in the occupied Arab territories as part of plans to establish Greater Israel. This will cause severe damage to the Palestinian Arab people.

Shamir's statements on absorbing the newcomers in the occupied territories and the Israeli authorities' attempts to cast a veil over Jewish immigration have aroused deep international concern. The current Zionist blackmail of the U.S. Administration is designed not only to force Washington to use the veto, but also to commit U.S. policies to the Israeli position on the issues of settlement and Arab Jerusalem.

It is well known that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is trying to form a new extremist government in which Sharon will be war minister. Sharon clearly announced recently his determination to crush the Palestinian intifadah in every possible way. This means that the occupied Arab territories will see massacres and bloodbaths and that Zionist settlers will be used along with the army to commit repression and annihilation. Shamir himself has declared his absolute rejection of Baker's plan, which was derived from Shamir's own plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories. Moreover, pressure will be put on Washington to move its embassy to Jerusalem to consolidate recognition of the fait accompli.

In fact, the Israeli foreign minister's rebuke of Washington for its positions is a prelude to a large-scale campaign through which the enemy will try to make the United States take new hostile positions against the Arabs, such as approving the Jewish settlement policy in the occupied territories, officially recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and covering up massacres being prepared by Shamir against our Palestinian Arab people to crush the intifadah. This will lead, if the U.S. Administration acquiesces, to the complete collapse of U.S. credibility—not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world because the cause of human rights has equal force worldwide and the principle of freedom is also indivisible. Hence, Washington cannot defend the right of this or that nation to self-determination and reject, at the same time, the rights of the Palestinian people; nor can it approve massacres being committed against the Palestinian people with U.S. weapons or the Judaization and settlement process being implemented with U.S. money. Therefore, the U.S. Administration is undergoing a new test and we will await the outcome.

U.S. Called On To Abandon Pro-Israeli Bias

AL-THAWRAH Comments 12 May

JN1205065490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's AL-THAWRAH comments on the recent U.S. position toward the Security Council debate on Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territory and Washington's attempt to freeze—in fact, to withdraw—the Security Council resolution with the aim of canceling it and preventing the adoption of a serious position; and on the serious repercussions of this U.S. stance on security and peace in the region and the world. Under the headline, "Why Does It Threaten To Use the Veto?" AL-THAWRAH says: In light of its recent stance at the Security Council, Washington has not concealed its

desire to oppose any resolution that might anger Israel and expose its aggressive and expansionist policy. Therefore, the U.S. representative did not hesitate to threaten to use the veto. This, consequently, affirms that the U.S. Administration blesses and encourages emigration and gives all help to support and perpetuate it, so that it will become a major resource for Israel in establishing its greater state which Shamir spoke about.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There is no doubt that the Washington stance entails much bias and injustice. This stance is not at all in harmony with its role and political responsibility as a superpower. It is still putting obstacles before the United Nations and preventing it from accomplishing the tasks for which it was established.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Washington is called upon to review its calculations and to abandon any blind bias and commitment to Israel. Otherwise, it will be held responsible for squandering the opportunities of a solution and peace in the region, as well as for pushing the region toward crisis and conflagration.

Paper Urges U.S. Neutrality

JN1305092290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has rebutted claims about U.S.-Israeli differences, considering these claims part of the blackout on certain policies Washington is seeking to peddle or use as test balloons to discover their reactions.

In a comment today, the paper refers to the recent statement by the U.S. White House spokesman who said that, following years of support and stability in their relations, the United States and Israel are continuing with these relations and that no change has occurred.

The paper adds: There is no need for reasserting the U.S. biased stand toward Israel with every new U.S. statement; for, the U.S. Administration itself takes the lead to react to any report on differences between the two parties. This establishes beyond doubt that U.S.-Israeli relations will not be shaken, even when the United States tries to suggest its displeasure with the Shamir government's stance toward the Baker plan or the Israeli peace-obstructing maneuvers.

In this regard, the paper wonders: How can the United States resume its efforts to settle the Middle East crisis in light of the unceasing support it is extending to Israel?

The paper adds: If the United States wants its efforts to bear fruit, these efforts have to stem from practical bases and criteria which take into consideration the causes of the crisis. In other words, the United States should abandon its blind bias toward Israel, adopt a neutral, balanced, and objective policy regarding the conflict in the region, and focus on the essence and real causes of this conflict.

Concluding its comment, the paper emphasizes that the road to peace in the region begins with firm, accurate adherence to international laws and charters, primarily the principle of inadmissibility of occupying others' lands by force. This means that Israel has to be forced to withdraw from the occupied territories, which will guarantee the Palestinian peoples' rights, and that there can be no support for the Israeli occupation.

Al-Shar' Receives Irish Message on Hostages

JN1305155390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 May (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received here today a message from his Irish counterpart, Gerard Collins. The message was conveyed by the Irish ambassador in Damascus.

The Irish message praised Syrian and Iranian efforts in the release of hostages detained in Lebanon, particularly the two U.S. hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed. The message also expressed the Irish Government's hope that Irish hostage Brian Keenan would be released.

Mr. al-Shar' stressed that the Syrian efforts have not ceased. He explained the difficulties related to the release of the hostages and cited the obstructive positions and statements made by certain concerned Western capitals following the release of the two U.S. hostages.

During his meeting with the Irish ambassador, the foreign minister also emphasized the need to employ a single humanitarian standard for the release of all hostages.

Ba'th Party Officials Meet Senegal Party Leader

JN1205202790 Damascus Television Service in English 1800 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Assistant Secretary General of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar received at his office today Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the Democratic Party in Senegal, along with his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fawwaz Sayyad, reserve member of the National Leadership. Their discussions centered on promoting relations between the two parties.

Mr. al-Ahmar talked of the changes in Syria and the role of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party in building a new progressive society. He also touched on developments in the Arab region and Syria's struggle to recapture legitimate Arab rights and to establish an equitable peace through an international peace conference. He said Israel was the obstacle to peace in the region.

The leader of the visiting delegation, Mr. Wade, spoke highly of Syria's accomplishments and reaffirmed his party's support for Syria's just struggle and for the Palestinian people's efforts to set up an independent state on their native soil.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sees 'Active Role' for Opposition

LD1305172290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[News conference given by President Najibullah in the Presidential Palace, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. We all know that Muhammad Zahir, ex-king of Afghanistan, recently issued a statement in which he touched on issues connected with Afghanistan. A number of our home journalists who are daily involved with news and information about Afghan issues requested the presidential press office to held a press conference with you and ask their questions in connection with assertions made by the ex-king. Naturally, our dear compatriots would also like to hear from you in this connection. I thank you on behalf of myself and the journalists here for allotting the time to reply to our journalists question despite all your various engagements. Now I request the journalists, if you permit, to raise their questions.

[Najibullah] Please.

[BAKHTAR representative] Esteemed president: A number of Western media consider the recent statement by Muhammad Zahir, ex-king of Afghanistan, as a sign that he is active. What is your view in this connection? Why has he chosen such a time to issue this statement?

[Najibullah] As you know, in my speech at the international conference in Kabul on the revelation of the holy Koran, and also in my speech on the 12th anniversary of the April revolution, I invited and addressed Muhammad Zahir Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan, and Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, to say that the time has come and they should take practical steps and play an active role or part in the establishment of peace in our country. The recent statement by Muhammad Zahir Shah, from our view, is a reply in connection with the invitation of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. The fact that he has become active by issuing statements—we welcome that. However, I have said many times that issuing statements and talking at a press conference are not enough. They will not remedy any pains of Afghanistan's people. However, to become active and play an effective part in the establishment of peace, he should understand the realities of Afghanistan; and by taking into account the facts about Afghanistan, he should take practical steps and measures toward real participation—be truly active—in the establishment of peace in the country.

[Representative of (word indistinct)] As the statement of the ex-king shows, he has expressed regret that a just and accurate assessment has not been carried out on the jihad [holy war], as if the people of Afghanistan have not yet tested the fruit of the jihad. What is your view in this connection?

[Najibullah] In our view, the idea that the people of Afghanistan do not seem to have tested the fruit of the jihad means that the war waged by the opposition of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan should continue. The principle target of waging a jihad, as was claimed by their patrons, was the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Almost 15 months have elapsed since the Soviet forces left Afghanistan. After that, creating another aim or testing another fruit is, in our view, simply showing interest in continuing the war, unfortunately, involving Afghan bloodshed, the destruction of our country Afghanistan, and finally the destruction of the home of Afghans.

Patriotic Afghans and every sound-thinking individual in the country should be of the opinion that the best and greatest fruit of the struggle of the people of Afghanistan consists of putting an end to the sufferings and pains of the people of Afghanistan by putting an end to war and fratricide, the cessation of bloodshed, and the maintenance of peace in the country. This wish could be achieved through the coming together of all political forces, parties, groups, organizations and important political and social figures around a negotiating table, to determine their own future by themselves. Every force, personality, and political organization, including the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, which would like to solve the question of Afghanistan through other means—that is, through force, military means, and the continuation of war—should know that the great responsibility for the continuation of war will rest on their shoulders.

[Reporter's question indistinct]

[Najibullah] I have said several times on previous occasions and this time repeat once again that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, in their programs and aims and from the viewpoint of their structure and organizations, have never been communist and are not now. Sticking to these groundless accusations and claims, I believe, is doing nothing but providing pretexts and evading active participation in the cause of a political solution of the question of Afghanistan and the cause of maintaining peace and the cessation of war, which is the greatest desire of the people of Afghanistan. One should not take such a step to convince oneself or others that, by issuing an announcement, one has become active; in the course of the announcements and declarations, pretexts have been inserted that prepare the ground for evading activity or active participation. [sentence as heard] I think the people of Afghanistan, especially in recent years, have suffered great loss of life and material; and a variety of policies in a variety of colors, inside as well as from outside Afghanistan, have been observed and are now held up to the mirror of judgment of the people. They have seen for themselves in a correct manner all claims, actions, and deeds, and judge them accordingly.

Resistance Commanders Form Independent Council

BK1305155290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 13 (AFP)—Dozens of field commanders from different Afghan resistance parties meeting secretly have formed a council to work independently of the mujahidin interim government, a communique delivered here to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP) said. The statement said the group was formed in the event that the resistance's Afghan Interim Government (AIG), based in Pakistan, ignored them in any future solution of the 11-year old Afghan crisis. The council (Shoora) was formed at a three-day secret meeting from May 7 to May 9 attended by a number of senior field commanders somewhere in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province.

A communique, delivered to AFP by a representative of the commanders who travelled here from Paktia after the meeting, said the crucial gathering included representatives of various fronts and major commands of the mujahidin. It said the meeting had set up a commission to arrange a grand shoora at which all mujahidin field commanders operating throughout Afghanistan would be invited to evolve a solution acceptable to the entire Afghan people.

The secret gathering "categorically rejected any attempts or formulas" to resolve the Afghan tangle "without direct participation of the commanders." Any formula "which violates the principles of our struggle will not be accepted," it said.

Among the commanders known to have attended the meeting were Muhammad Amin Wardak, Mullah Malang, Commander Anwar, Maulavi Jalaluddin, Abdul Haq, Haji Habibullah and Rahmatullah. The meeting was attended by various ethnic groups in addition to the Shiite and Sunni party representatives, it said.

Nasrullah Baryalai Arsalai, the field commanders' representative who brought the communique, said the countrywide Shoora of field commanders was planned to be convened "very soon, probably in a few weeks."

The move comes amid the continuing impasse in Afganistan since the pullout of Soviet troops on February 15, 1989, under the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords.

The latest peace initiatives proposed envisage neutrally supervised elections in areas controlled both by the Soviet-backed regime of Afghan President Najibullah and the rebel mujahidin. It was not immediately known how the initiators of the new grand assembly move will react to such proposals.

Replying to a question, Mr. Arsalai said direct talks between the commanders' council and Moscow could not be ruled out in an ultimate settlement. But he rejected any possibility of negotiating with President Najibullah "or people like him who have blood on their hands" in the Kabul regime.

Regarding the AIG, he said: "We don't want to create problems with them." The parties draw strength from the mujahidin and the commanders were not in any conflict with the party chiefs, he said. But "if they block us, we will continue to work in our own way," he said.

Peasant's Party Chooses Councils; Congress Ends

LD1105191390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] The work of the first National Congress of the Peasant's Justice Party [HAD] which started yesterday in the hall of the Union of Journalists ended today.

At today's session of the National Congress of the HAD, the Leadership Council and the Supervision Council of the party were elected in accordance with direct voting.

Also at the session talks were held on the proposal to change the name of the party to Peasant's National Unity [Bazgari Meli Etahad] and was approved unanimously.

Discussions were held to alter the banner and emblem of the HAD and other issues, and the necessary decisions were taken. At the end of the session the text of the resolution of the session was approved.

Abdol Hakim Tawana, chairman of the Peasant's National Unity of Afghanistan in his concluding speech assessed the work of the National Congress and considered it as useful and valuble in the implementation of the future tasks.

Prime Minister-Designate Holds Policy Talks

LD1105202990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] The press office of the Council of Ministers reports that esteemed Fazal Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister-designate, has met during the last two days with a number of national, social, and religious personalities of the country in connection with the structure of the new government. He exchanged views with them on a policy to guarantee the establishment and consolidation of peace in the country.

Delegation Returns From ADB Annual Meeting

LD1305192790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Hamidullah Tarzi, finance minister, and Mohammad Kabir, chairman of the Central Bank, returned home today after taking part in the 23d Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] in New Delhi. The finance minister and head of the Afghani delegation told a BAKHTAR correspondent that the 23d Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank was held in New Delhi on 2 May 1990, which corresponds to 12 Sowr 1369. Afghanistan is a member of the bank, and the head of the Afghani delegation delivered a speech at

the session. The Afghani delegation also met with the head of the Asian Development Bank and held talks on credits for Afghanistan.

Gas, Oil Protocol Signed With USSR Group

LD1305210390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] A protocol on the revival and expansion of the exploration of gas and oil mines and the resumption of gas export to the USSR was signed today by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in Kabul. The protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Dr. Nedayi, deputy minister of mines and industries and acting minister of mines and industries ministry, and on the USSR side by Aleksandr Nikolayevich (Sokhanov), assistant head of the USSR import and export directorate general and head of that country's delegation. A source of the Ministry of Mines and Industry told BAKHTAR that a delegation of the ministries of mines and geology recently arrived in Kabul at the invitation of the ministry to further expand and develop cooperation for joint activities between the Ministry of Mines and Industry of the Republic of Afghanistan and the related USSR institutions. In the course of its visit to various areas of the oil and gas industries, the delegation members have conducted talks on the continuation and expansion of the existing relations in these areas with the Afghan authorities.

Najibullah Meets With Soviet Komsomol Delegation

LD1205225290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning at the headquarters of the presidency with the Soviet Komsomol delegation led by Aleksandr Ivanovich Trudolyubov, member of Soviet Parliament, member of the Komsomol Central Committee and first provincial secretary of Smolensk.

A BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent reports that during this meeting esteemed Najibullah spoke about the recent development in Afghanistan, the new structure of the DYOA [Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan], the role of youths in the implementation of the peace process, and the need for the solidarity of world youth with the youth of our country.

In return, the head of the Komsomol expressed pleasure in meeting esteemed Najibullah, and pledged on behalf of Soviet youths to make efforts toward the further expansion of relations and cooperation between the Soviet Komsomol and the DYOA.

In the meeting Muhammad Ibrahim, first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and representative plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, were present.

Recent Military Activity in Provinces Reported

LD1005155390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province, as a whole, are engaged in strengthening their advance defense trenches and consolidating the new strongholds they have captured in the direction of Kama and Shiwa. As a result of combat and mopping-up operations by the units, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis have not succeeded in recapturing their lost positions.

Quoting a military source, BAKHTAR reports that Pakistan-linked warmongers launched sporadic heavy weapons attacks on a number of security posts of Jalalabad city, advanced defense lines, and some parts in the city over the past three day. In retaliation for these criminal actions, the artillery and air forces subjected their trenches and resistence positions to strikes, as a result of which, 86 members of the joint enemy forces have been ousted from combat lines during the past three days. Six of their rocket launchers, two mortars, and one communication unit were destroyed.

On 7 May, units of the Armed Forces carried out widespread mopping-up operations in Dasht-e Gamberi, and in regions around (Yasin Baba), Shahi Kalay, and ('Abd ol Khel), as a result of which 117 missile warheads, 192 mortar mines, 265 recoilless gun shells, 130 shells for [word indistinct], several thousand assorted machine-gun rounds and four tents were seized. During the past three days, as a result of shelling by the extremists, two members of our armed force were martyred and four others wounded.

The source added that on 8 May units and companies of the Armed Forces in Khowst major district severely pushed back a limited attack by armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi extremists, which had been launched against a number of security posts in Gorbaz region. The warmongers suffered heavy losses.

On 7-8 May, Pakistani-linked extremists fired heavy weapons on some parts of Khowst city, advanced line units and companies, and some regions in (Zazi Maydan). In order to foil this shelling, the artillery and air force units launched attacks on their trenches. As a result of these strikes and successful combat operations, 51 members of the joint enemy forces were ousted from the combat ranks. Two members of Air Armed Forces were martyred and two were wounded.

According to the report, units and companies stationed in Qandahar and Zabol Provinces are carrying out their national and patriotic duties in their previous defense trenches. During the past three days, Pakistani-linked warmongers carried out sporadic heavy weapon fire at a number of posts along Qandahar's security belt and on security posts around (Tor Kotal) and Qalat city. In response, the resistance centers and trenches of extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis were

subjected to heavy weapons fire by the units as a result of which 100 members of the joint enemy forces were crushed. Two members of our units were martyred and three were wounded.

Regime Forces' 'Mopping Up Operations' Detailed

LD1305160390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The recent activities of units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province which were carried out in the directions of Abdul Khel, Kama bridge, and Shewa, proved once again that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan, with their high combat readiness, have the ability to carry out mopping up operations in any region of the country and inflict crushing blows on the enemies of peace and the tranquillity of our compatriots.

These points were reported to the BAKHTAR military section by an Armed Forces source in Nangarhar Province. He added that during these operations the personnel of the units and companies who took part in the task, following the slogan of homeland or death, bravely rushed toward the positions of the Pakistan-supported extremists and, inflicting deadly blows on the enemy, crushed 194 of them and injured 111 others. In addition dozens of various types of weapons and thousands of shells for light and heavy weapons were seized. Large quantities of enemy arms and ammunition, and foodstuff and clothing depots were also seized by the armed forces.

As a result of these operations, the mountains around Kama bridge and Bagh-e Pol-e Abdul Khel were cleared of the enemy, who has lost the capacity to retaliate. As a result of these operation, a stream which irrigated land in Behsod subdistrict was repaired and is now being used by the farmers. The extremists had previously cut this stream.

The source added that the units and companies of the Armed Forces have heroically defended the beautiful city of Jalalabad during the last year. A large number of those families who had left their houses have started to return to the city. Around 3,000 of our compatriots have now returned to their original places. The relevant authorities have given assistance to the value of more than 6.346 million Afghanis to those families who suffered as a result of enemy attacks.

It should be added that after suffering heavy losses, bloody internecine clashes have increased among the extremist groups. During the past year, in the region of West Zone and Khogayani and Shinwar districts 206 persons were killed as a result of these clashes and scores were injured.

12 May Missile Attacks Kill 4, Injure 11

LD1205171990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] As a result of the firing of 15 U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles which hit Kabul city today, four compatriots were martyred and 11 others were wounded. The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that the injured persons were quickly transferred to hospitals, where they are under intensive care.

As a result of the firing of these missiles, which were launched from the west and northwest at Kabul city's residential regions, material losses were also incurred.

State Security Seizes Explosives in Kabul

LD1305180190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] State Security Ministry personnel discovered and seized today six TNT type explosive [as heard] which was brought to Kabul by the extremists to organize an explosion in the populated areas of the city.

Missile Attack on Kabul Injures Six 13 May

LD1305180990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The extremists supported by Pakistan today fired 17 surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of Kabul city and injured six of our compatriots.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that the injured were immediately taken to a hospital for treatment. As a result of the missile attack, which was launched from west of Kabul, our compatriots also suffered financial loss.

Mine Discovered in Charikar Bus Defused

LD1305162290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Today the personnel of the State Security Department in Parvan Province found a magnetic mine and a [word indistinct] which was hidden in a mini bus, was discovered and a plot was foiled in time. According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section report, this mine was planted in this bus in order to cause destruction. It was parked in a populated part of Charikar city, when the mine was discovered, defused and taken away.

Opposition Groups Cease Fighting, Join Regime

LD1305210490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpt] Two armed groups of the opposition, a 150-man group headed by Sayd Nader Shah in the Khahan district and an 80-man group headed by Sayd Abdul Manan in the area of Bakhshan Province, have recently declared they are joining the national and Islamic policy of national reconciliation by ceasing armed activities. [passage omitted]

India

Gujral Comments on Border Situation With Pakistan

Accuses Pakistan of Disrupting Unity

BK1205074690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has stressed the need to further strengthen the intercommunity bonds and respect the sensibilities of one another to repulse any external attack. In an interview to a Hindi weekly, he said the real target of Pakistan's attack is the secular fabric of India. He said Islamabad has been isolated on the Kashmir issue even in west Asia. Mr. Gujral said that no country except Iran is supporting Pakistan on the issue. The minister said that Islamabad has launched a low-cost war in regard to Kashmir and Punjab to achieve the objective of disrupting our country's unity.

Says Pakistan Supporting Terrorists

BK1305075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that India always wants peace and is keen to build the subcontinent as an area of cooperation and understanding. Talking to newsmen in Jullundur today, the minister said Pakistan continues to support terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab despite a denial by Pakistan's foreign minister recently in this regard. He warned the policymakers in Pakistan to realize the futility of this adventurism and its consequences. He said that the people of Punjab have not allowed them to succeed in their efforts to divide them, and appealed to them to reset their traditional values of brotherhood and secularism. He also appealed to the Kashmir refugees to return to their homes.

Mr. Gujral said election in Punjab will be held before November 10th this year.

Says Kashmir To Retain Special Status

BK1305161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The government is committed to retain Article 370 of the Constitution which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, while addressing a news conference in Jullundur today.

He said that while India is making all-out efforts to bring peace in the region, Pakistan is not responding to India's gestures. Mr. Gujral said Pakistan is not only aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, but also trying to wreck our democratic and secular system by inciting various sections of the Indian society. He warned the policymakers in Pakistan to realize the futility of this adventurism and its consequences.

Says Pakistani 'Propaganda' Failed

BK1405130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that Pakistan is openly interfering in the internal affairs of India while demanding mediation on the Kashmir issue. In an interview broadcast over Akashvani [All India Radio], Jullundur, he said India is always prepared for talks with Pakistan, but can never bow down on the question of Kashmir which is an integral part of India. Mr. Gujral said Islam played a vital role in our cultural heritage and Indian Muslims are fully with us.

Commenting on Pakistan's external publicity, Mr. Gujral said it always failed in its malicious propaganda. He said that is why Pakistan has no good relations even with her neighboring Muslim countries like the Maldives and Bangladesh which are supporting India.

Minister Tells Pakistan To Set House in Order

BK1305124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The union home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has advised Pakistan to set its own house in order instead of interfering in India's internal affairs. Addressing a public meeting at Purankot in the border Punch sector of Jammu and Kashmir today, he said muhajirs and several other groups of Muslims in Pakistan are not feeling secure even 40 years after creation of that country. He said India does not want any confrontation with any of its neighbors, but unity and integrity of the nation will be protected at all costs.

The home minister said that the situation in the Kashmir Valley has started improving and it would be normal soon. He said no problem can be solved at gunpoint and the government has initiated short- and long-term measures to gain the confidence of the people of the Kashmir Valley and bring the misguided youth into the mainstream of national life.

Alleges 4,000 Youths in Pakistani Camps

BK1405033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] At the end of his two-day tour of the border areas of Rajuri and Poonch in Jammu Division yesterday, the home minister said that security border areas has been tightened to foil any attempt of infiltration by about 4,000 youths who are still in the terrorists training camps of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The Mufti ruled out any move to depopulate any border area, saying that people in the border belt have been fully cooperating with the security forces in maintaining vigilance against the infiltrators. He said Muslims in secular and democratic India are far better placed than the Muslims in the theocratic state of Pakistan where mujahirs, Sindhis, Balochis, Biharis, and Pathans are still struggling for their security and equality.

Officials Claim Pakistan Massing Tanks at Border

BK1405073090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Jorian, India, May 14 (AFP)—Pakistan, engaged in a bitter war of words with India over Kashmir, has massed tanks at the border where the two neighbours fought a fierce battle 19 years ago, Indian officials said here.

This northern frontier Indian town, skirted on two sides by Pakistani territory, has been witnessing "unusual troops movements" for the past fortnight on the other side of the border, the officials said. They said Pakistan has moved in several brigades of its elite troops and tanks near Jorian, less than 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Kashmir's vital winter capital Jammu. People here are getting "restive and panicky" because of the Pakistani deployment, the officials said.

Defence sources said the deployment was aimed at severing Indian supply routes to Jammu's strategic military stations of Poonch and Rajuri in case of a war.

"However India was aware of the wishful thinking of the Pakistani move and is prepared to foil any attempt of its army to move forward in these sectors," a senior defence official told a group of reporters who visited this tiny town Sunday [13 May]. "They cannot even advance an inch in these sectors," the official said amid reports that India has matched Pakistan's military deployment.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency in a report from Jorian said Pakistan began massing tanks at the border from May 10 to capture Indian bridges on the river Chenab and Chaamb in an event of war and sever the supply routes to Poonch and Rajuri.

Forward Pakistani positions are however being held by Islamabad's paramilitary rangers, UNI said in its widely circulated news report, adding that India has decided to deploy more paramilitary border security force contingents in the forward sectors of Rajuri and Punch.

The decision to augment the Indian presence in these sectors was taken following a two-day tour of Rajuri and Poonch by federal Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed which ended Sunday, UNI said.

"Pakistan should not venture to test its strength against India again. The wounds it suffered in the previous conflicts are yet to be healed and therefore any fresh misadventure can prove disastrous for that country," the home minister said here.

Pakistani troop movements began after India started to "evacuate" several villages in this frontier region in an operation aimed at stopping Kashmiri militants returning from Pakistan with arms, Indian defence sources said.

There was no independent confirmation of Indian allegations of the Pakistani build-up, but in New Delhi senior Defence Ministry officials repeated the charge that Islamabad was massing troops at the border near northern Jammu and Kashmir state.

"Pakistan has moved in several regiments of tanks for a thrust in case of war, but we think we can counter it easily," a senior ministry official said, but refused to confirm reports that India too has moved troops and armour to battle positions along the border.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in a recent interview said the two sides should at least pull back their troops to peace-time positions to ease growing Indo-Pakistani tensions over a flaring moslem campaign against Indian rule in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since 1947 and the last battle in 1971 was mainly fought in this sector. The two neighbours have been expanding their armed forces since the last brief but fierce conflict 19 years ago.

'Killers' Arrested; Kashmiri Organization Banned

BK1105161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the killers of the Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq, and his secretary, Abdul Ghani, have been arrested by the security forces. Disclosing this to newsmen, the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, said that the killers of the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager, H.L. Khera, have also been identified and are expected to be arrested soon. Prof. Mushirul Haq, Abdul Ghani, and H.L. Khera, kidnapped by terrorists in two separate incidents on the sixth of last month in Srinagar, were killed four days later.

Meanwhile, the security forces today arrested 10 subversives and recovered a big quantity of arms and ammunition from them in the Kashmir Valley.

In another significant move today, the state government declared unlawful the Falah-i-Aam [Public Welfare] Trust affiliated to the already banned Jammat-i-Islami. All the 157 schools run by the trust have been closed. Government schools have been asked to admit the students from the trust schools.

Singh Confirms Gujral To Visit Beijing

BK1305160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The prime minister has announced that the external affairs minister will soon visit Beijing to promote and strengthen friendly relations with China. Prior to this, a delegation will go to that country next month. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was talking to newsmen aboard an Indian Air Force plane, while returning after a three-day tour of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

On Indo-Nepalese relations, the prime minister said both countries have taken positive steps toward improvement of the traditional friendly ties and the government hopes that these will produce positive results.

Mr. Singh categorically stated that the Amnesty International will not be allowed to visit Punjab or any part of the country. He said if Amnesty International wants to visit Punjab, it should come via Karachi.

When his attention was drawn to the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's proposed visit to Islamic countries to mobilize international support for the Kashmir problem, the prime minister said India is in contact with various nations. He said Simla agreement could be the basis for Indo-Pak relations.

Mr. Singh asserted there is no pressure whatsoever from the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left parties on his government to deviate from its principles. He reiterated the government's policy to solve the country's problems through consensus. He made it clear there would be no compromise on National Front's principles while doing so.

Five 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK1305085490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, five hard-core terrorists were killed in two separate encounters this morning. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Meanwhile, in Hoshiarpur District, terrorists shot dead three persons and seriously injured one in two separate incidents. One person was also gunned down by terrorists in Amritsar city last night.

Singh: No Amnesty International Visit to Punjab

BK1305090990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has categorically stated that Amnesty International will not be allowed to visit Punjab or any other part of the country. Talking to reporters on board the Indian Air Force plane while returning to the capital at the end of his three-day tour of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Bombay he said if Amnesty International wants to visit Punjab, it should come via Karachi.

When his attention was drawn to the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's proposed visit to Islamic countries to mobilize international support for the Kashmir problem in the forthcoming Organization of Islamic Countries meeting, Mr. V.P. Singh said India is in contact with various nations. The prime minister said that Simla Agreement could be the only basis for better Indo-Pak relations.

Singh Speaks on National, Regional Issues

BK1205040590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that any misadventure or miscalculation across the border will be met firmly not only by the Armed Forces but also by the people of India. Mr. V.P. Singh was addressing a public meeting at Tamaka, near Kolar in Karnataka yesterday in connection with the inauguration of a building complex of the Devaraj Urs Medical College. He appealed to the people to accept the challenge and be united.

Referring to the Punjab problem, Mr. Singh said the center hopes that the democratic process will be established in the state soon.

On Jammu and Kashmir, he said people's cooperation is very essential for finding a solution.

Later, talking to newsmen at Bangalore airport, the prime minister said the center will take a dispassionate view of the Cauvery water dispute and will follow the Supreme Court decision.

Asked about organizational elections, Mr. Singh denied that there is any rift in the Janata Dal on the question of the party president's election.

Addressing a meeting in Bangalore, the prime minister said measures taken by the center to contain prices have yielded results in respect of cement, tea, and sugar. Prices of edible oils will be controlled through imports, but the government is not going for import of petroleum products considering the difficult balance of payment position. That is why the government is thinking of rationing petroleum products.

On the Prasar Bharati bill [to grant autonomy to radio and television], the prime minister said all the formalities would be completed by the year end. He said there has been a change in the Doordarshan coverage after the National Front government resumed office. The government is now allowing the opposition to get coverage which was not so in the past. He, however, observed that this change in the Doordarshan coverage has not been up to his expectation as the news agency put it.

Congress Party Factions Merge 12 May

BK1305100790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The Congress-J today merged with the Congress-S at the open session of the Congress-J held in New Delhi. The Congress-S leader, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, on the occasion called on the people to follow the principles of the late Babu Jagjivan Ram and eradicate communalism from the country. He expressed the need for reviving faith in the secular fabric of India. Mr. Unnikrishnan announced that the party would hold a national convention next month to step up the fight against communal frenzy.

Official Relieved of Responsibility During Audit

BK1205160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Mr. Sam Pitroda, chairman of the Telecom Commission [appointed by former Premier Rajiv Gandhi] has been divested of his responsibilities as advisor to CIDOT, Center for Development of Telematics, and vice chairman of its governing council. The communications minister, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, told our correspondent that this is in view of the audit of CIDOT affairs being carried out by the comptroller and auditor general. He said the audit has been ordered as several irregularities have been pointed out in the CIDOT functioning by the high-powered Nambiar Committee. Mr. Mishra said it would be advisable for Mr. Pitroda not to be associated with the organization during the audit. Agency reports say Mr. Pitroda, while confirming the receipt of the order, claimed that he himself had sought to be relieved of his responsibilities with CIDOT during the period of audit.

Iran

Envoy in Lebanon Says Four Iranian Hostages Alive

LD1105191890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] The Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon reaffirmed that the four Iranians who were taken hostage in Lebanon in 1982 are still alive and are residing in the Christian quarter of Beirut. According to an AFP report, during a press interview, he called on all those who claim that the four Iranians are dead to substantiate their claims with evidence. The Iranian charge d'affaires reiterated: The actions taken by Iran and Syria toward the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon have been merely humanitarian. The intention was never to get close to Washington.

Official Says Iran To 'Stand by Baghdad' in War

AU1205190590 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 11 May 90 p 4

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "First Rapprochement Between Tehran and United States; Iran Sees 'Good Start'"]

[Text] Vienna—Sayyed Hoseyn Musavian, secretary general in Tehran's Foreign Ministry, described an agreement between Iran and the United States on mutual financial settlements as a "good start." However, in an interview with DER STANDARD, Musavian said this only solves a fraction of the differences of opinion and other differences between the two countries.

After radical Islamic students took U.S. diplomats hostage in Tehran in 1979, relations between the two states were severed. Since 1981, the only contact has been maintained by an arbitration court in The Hague, which settles financial claims. After years of futile negotiations, a partial success has now been achieved: During a first stage, Iran will pay a total amount of 1.26 billion [Austrian] schillings to the United States to settle more than 3,100 individual claims.

"This is only a small amount," Musavian says, "because the assets of the Iranians, which are frozen in the United States, amount to a total of $10 billion." In order to continue the rapprochement, Washington "will have to show goodwill by releasing, for instance, goods and money that it has kept back so far."

Concerning the hostages in Lebanon, the secretary general said that his country has convinced the Islamic groups in Lebanon "with much dedication and pressure" to "release two hostages for humanitarian reasons." However, conversely, the Israelis and the Phalangists (Christian militia in Lebanon) are holding Islamic hostages, which they have to release.

Musavian assessed Iraq's ambition to build long-range artillery as not so dangerous to his country. "Even though Baghdad used top modern weapons against us, we were not forced to our knees." Furthermore, Musavian pointed out that the West is responsible for the fact that Saddam Husayn received these weapons. Musavian also made clear his country's position in an emergency: "If war breaks out between Israel and Iraq, Tehran will stand by Iraq."

More on Official's Statements

JN1205072090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The Iranian Foreign Ministry secretary general has announced that Tehran will stand by Baghdad if a war breaks out between Israel and Iraq. Responding to a question on Iraq's production of modern weapons, Hoseyn Musavian said Baghdad's ambitions are not that dangerous. In an interview with the Austrian newspaper DER STANDARD, he blamed the West for Iraq's use of more modern weaponry during the Gulf war.

In the context of UN efforts to resume the peace talks between Iraq and Iran, Jan Eliasson, special representative of the UN secretary general, met with Iran's UN representative, Kamal Kharazi, who drew Eliasson's attention to the letter sent by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Iranian authorities. Kharazi said he hoped the letter would be accompanied by positive, tangible measures to implement the UN Resolution No. 598.

The TEHRAN TIMES earlier said that the letter Saddam Husayn sent to his Iranian counterpart Hashemi-Rafsanjani included new peace proposals and stated that Bahghdad is now ready to discuss the southern Iraqi borders at Shatt al-'Arab as demarcated in the 1975 Algiers agreement. According to the Iranian newspaper, the Iraqi president proposed direct peace talks between the two countries in Mecca without UN participation.

It is noteworthy that neither Baghdad nor Tehran have disclosed the contents of this letter. The United Nations, which received a copy of the letter, has declined to comment on the subject.

Reportage on Alleged Iraqi Letter, Renewed Ties

Velayati Acknowledges Receipt

LD1105152690 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at a panel discussion on Iranian television last night that the Security Council Resolution 598 is still the best framework for peace talks with Iraq.

He acknowledged receipt of a letter from Iraq's Ba'athist government by the Iranian National Security Council, but commented that the Islamic Republic has not yet divulged the contents of the letter and that comments by various quarters in that respect are solely conjectures.

Velayati said the Iranian Government would be receptive to any suggestion from whatever authority to the extent that those suggestions will facilitate the execution of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Besharati Cited on Talks

NC1105151390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 2 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Be Aware of New Imposed War"]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati on Monday [30 April] ruled out a resumption of war with Iraq and said Tehran was ready to resume talks with Baghdad.

Besharati told reporters that the two countries have embarked on major projects to rebuild war damaged facilities and this shows their keenness on peace.

Following Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 as well as the U.N. Secretary General's peace proposals, it has become obvious to all peace loving people in the world that Iran never wanted a war and never started it on Sept. 22, 1980.

While the Iranian officials must continue their diplomatic efforts for a long lasting peace in the region—mainly through the U.N. mediation efforts—they must remember that the Iraqi regime will act only when he is ordered to do so. If the "Butcher of Baghdad's" masters give him an order for an attack on Iran, for sure, he would not hesitate to launch a new offensive against Iranian territory using his chemical or biological arsenals.

The idea of relating postwar reconstruction to any reduced possibility of renewed hostility between the two countries is certainly erroneous. Because when the war started 10 years ago, the two countries had tens of billions of dollars in the form of investment in their battle regions which were mostly destroyed afterwards. One should also keep in mind that for ruthless dictators, such as Hitler or Saddam, personal ambitions are more important than any other consideration.

Envoy: Message Exchange Welcome

LD1205094190 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, May 12, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy here said Friday [11 May] that Tehran would welcome exchange of messages with Iraq if this led to implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi made the remark in a meeting with the U.N. Chief's special envoy on the Iraq-Iran war, Jan Eliasson. The two met to discuss issues pertaining to the U.N. Resolution which Iran unconditionally accepted in July 1988.

Iran's National Security Council last week announced that Iran had received a letter from the Iraqi Government proposing direct talks between the two countries. Iran-Iraq talks under the UN auspices started after a ceasefire went into effect between the warring states in August 1988 but no substantial progress have been made despite holding several rounds of negotiations.

Other senior Iranian officials, including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati have voiced similar views regarding the Iraqi proposal whose contents have yet to be disclosed.

Kharrazi told Eliasson that the new international climate and the regional developments required that the execution of the Resolution 598 be speeded up. He also reminded the UN secretary general's significant role in this regard.

Eliasson also agreed that the U.N. resolution was the most precise international plan towards achievement of peace in the region. He assured Kharrazi that the United Nations will continue its efforts toward the accomplishment of this important task.

'Well-Informed Source' on Contents

LD1205100990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0010 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 11 (TANJUG)—Iraq has (?proposed) direct peace negotiations to Iran, and this without the so-far U.N. mediation, a well-informed source made it known to TANJUG correspondent here. The said proposal was set out in a letter sent by President Saddam Husayn of Iraq to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, chief of the Iranian state.

In his letter, Saddam Husayn sets out Iraqi stands on possibilities for signing a peace agreement, establishing neighbourly relations and solving problems concerning exchanges of war prisoners and Iranian-Iraqi frontier, the same source said.

Nothing more precise about all of this cannot be learned for the time being, but TANJUG was told that the message, not having been made public in Tehran, does not mention Iraq's withdrawal to the internationally recognized frontier, a thing on which Iran keeps insisting since negotiations started on applying the Security Council Resolution 598 on putting an end to the conflict.

Paper Questions Letter's Sincerity

LD1205104190 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—An English-language daily Saturday [12 May] commented on the last week Iraqi Government's letter to Iran's National Security Council concerning the pending peace talks between the two countries.

TEHRAN TIMES, in an editorial titled: "Is Iraq Truly After Peace?" stressed "if Iraq is sincere in its peace gestures it should be assured of Iran's full cooperation as the Islamic Republic time and again has proven its seriousness to this end."

The article noted that although the content of the letter has not yet been disclosed, "it can be gleaned that Iraq wishes to hold direct talks with Iran, but out of the framework provided by the U.N. sponsored peace resolution, at the presidential level."

It also pointed to the forthcoming trip of the Iraqi foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz to New York and said if the visit takes place it may help to clarify Iraqi intentions behind the letter it has sent to Iran.

"Will the Baghdad foreign minister, this time too, repeat his past performances of totally fruitless visits and talks with the U.N. secretary general?" argued the article.

It concluded by expressing hope that "as may be expected from the positive content of the Iraqi letter to Iran, this will not be the case this time."

Iraqi Proposals, Iranian Reply 'Disclosed'

JN1305133790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Arab political sources in Cairo have disclosed to our radio the substance of proposals contained in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the Iranian reply to these proposals.

The sources said the Iraqi president's letter contained four main points. They are:

1. Holding direct contacts between Iraq and Iran without the mediation of any international or regional parties, provided these contacts are held at a venue agreed upon by both countries. The task of international and regional parties should be confined to making preparations for these contacts. Iraq prefers to hold these contacts between the two countries at the highest political level.

2. Preparing an agenda for these contacts immediately upon Iran's approval of such contacts. The general aim of these contacts should be governed by the principles of good neighborliness as well as the principles of law and international and regional norms in settling the points of disagreement between the two countries.

3. Iraq's approval of the preparation of a timetable acceptable to Iran concerning the exchange of POW's, provided this is consistent with all international regulations and norms concerning the exchange of POW's. The agenda should be the subject of full agreement and satisfaction between the two countries.

4. Signing a peace treaty between Iraq and Iran as soon as possible and immediately upon settling the main points of disagreement. Iraq hopes this treaty would be signed within the next three or four months.

The sources said the Iranian reply to the Iraqi proposals contained several points. They are:

1. Iraq should announce prior to the beginning of these contacts its readiness to withdraw to recognized international borders.

2. Iraq should start taking practical steps in this direction immediately without awaiting the results of these contacts.

3. Should Iraq agree to the aforementioned two conditions, Iran would immediately agree to the Iraqi proposals. Iran prefers to hold the talks in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

KAYHAN Speculates on Letter

LD1405093990 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday [14 May] commented on the Iraqi president's recent letter to Iranian leaders and speculated that Saddam Husayn wants direct talks between himself and Iran's top-ranking authorities.

According to the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, Saddam in his letter, the content of which has not yet been disclosed, has apparently mentioned the West's hostility with the Muslim states as well as the Soviet Jewish influx to the occupied Palestine as a common problem of the Arab and Muslim countries. He also singled out his demands regarding Iraq-Iran conflict.

The editorial said that Saddam's letter could be studied from three different angles: to consider it a new peace maneuver to counter Iran's peace-keeping efforts, to take Baghdad's new proposals seriously, or finally to view the letter as something beyond a mere political-propaganda maneuver but not the only way left to Saddam.

The daily's editorial underlined that proposing Saudi Arabia which has no diplomatic relations with Iran as

the venue for the talks "is a clear evidence that such negotiations would be impossible to take place."

"Another factor strengthening this idea is the Baghdad regime's records over the past eight years. But if Saddam followed merely propaganda goals, why didn't he launch any propaganda campaign—at least in the stage of sending the letter?" asked the paper.

In regard to the second assumption, the daily suggested "the Iraq-West conflict should also be taken seriously" but believed "such an assumption seems to be unrealistic in a world of realities."

The editorial also quoted some Iranian circles as saying that "PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat too has sent a letter to Iranian leaders in which he has stressed the need for Muslim unity to counter the Jewish immigration to Palestine and has also called on Muslims to settle their issues themselves."

It said, "one should not overlook the real intentions of Saddam Husayn and afterwards of Yasir 'Arafat."

As for the third assumption, it said, "this outlook is based on a particular analysis of the West-Iraq confrontation as well as on the developments in the foreign relations of Tehran and Baghdad over the past one or two years."

The paper added that Iran started normalizing its relations with other countries after it accepted the Security Council Resolution 598, a move which "turned the international pressure lever used by Iraq as an offensive means against Iran, to a defensive weapon and diminished its effectiveness."

The editorial pointed out "it seems that Iraq is not optimistic towards the future of the peace talks under supervision of the U.N. secretary general and that it is also concerned about the continuation of the west's support for it."

"This feeling of weakness has forced Iraqi rulers to seek solutions outside the framework of the Resolution 598. In their opinion, while they are apparently holding the upper hand, direct talks would be in their interest, it added [no closing quotation mark as received]

The editorial stressed that this not imply that the West has ceased siding with Iraq. It rather means "western countries regard their backing of Baghdad not as absolute but as conditional."

The editorial in conclusion suggested "Tehran by taking advantage of and adding fuel to Baghdad's conflict with the West—however unimportant they may be—can strip Baghdad...of the West's support and cause a separation between western countries and Iraq."

"If this purpose is attained even relatively, Iraq's pressure levers against Iran in the peace negotiations, whether within or outside the context of Resolution 598, would be weakened and the ground would be prepared for the Islamic Republic to achieve its goals."

"...if Iraq continues to insist on its irrational stance, the new trend too would most probably fail. It will at the same time prove that the Iraqis are still lacking in good will essential to establishing a durable peace."

Paper Views Iraqi 'Propaganda War' at UN

LD1005102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—In a commentary on the current propaganda battle of Iraq against the Islamic Republic at the United Nations, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Thursday [10 May] that Baghdad is vainly trying to ward off accusations against itself by levelling same charges against Iran. It said the more the Baghdad regime should continue with its propaganda war with Iran in relation with the accusations against itself the more it will prove the truth of those accusations, the daily said:

"To escape the responsibility for committing the heinous crime of employing chemical weapons against the peoples of Iran and Iraq, this week the Iraqi regime launched out into more activity. The passage of time also marks the disclosure of more and more secrets about the war crimes of the Baghdad regime, and consequently more and more worry and anxiety on the part of the perpetrators of those crimes.

"This week the Iraqi envoy at the United nations accused Iran of having employed chemical weapons during the imposed war. THE NEW YORK TIMES, too, reflected on the same topic in relation with the Iraqi city Halabjah though attributing it with a slick device to Pentagon, the U.S. Defence Department.

"Notwithstanding that Pentagon officials denied the proposition of a query being carried out into the issue by Pentagon, pointing it out that THE NEW YORK TIMES," report is not correct.

"Although the denial by Pentagon demonstrates the falsehood of a report, it should not be cited as evidence for that purpose. Why? Because we know too well about ourselves and our business to have to cite the witness of this or that official. In addition all experience has demonstrated that because such officials and sources have certain motives and because they are part of the total system, in the United States they are not to be trusted, and that even though today they may say something to please us, it does not stand for their sincerity. Why? Because tomorrow and in a different situation prompted by different motives they will say other things. All past experience has proved that personalities cannot be a factor for deciding on the truth and veracity of their statements.

"Nonetheless, THE NEW YORK TIMES report as well as the allegations of the Iraqi envoy indicate that to

avoid being singled out as the only offender in relation with that grave crime and savage massacre with chemical weapons the Baghdad regime is trying every possible device to find other accomplices in the crime or to ward off the charges by directing the same to the other party in the conflict.

"Obviously, however, the renewed efforts of Iraq will not change anything but further demonstrate the wickedness of our enemies."

Editorial Decries Rushdie's Statements

NC1105161690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Rushdie's Apparition Heard Again"]

[Text] This time it was the BBC radio that was used as the medium by Salman Rushdie for reminding his protectors in the British government that they should fulfill their promises and help him resume a normal life in Britain.

Last time Rushdie had made his pleas through the British newspaper 'Independent'. It was in January, on the eve of the first anniversary of the religious edict issued by the late Imam Khomeyni. The truth is that Rushdie was finished on February 14, 1989, when Imam Khomeyni called on Muslims to kill him. Rushdie was written off on that day.

Nevertheless, by submitting a 7,000-word essay to the 'Independent' the author of the blasphemous novel, 'The Satanic Verses' had reiterated that the novel was misread and misunderstood.

His essay titled "In Good Faith" was published in the Sunday, February 4, 1990, issue of the 'Independent'. The editor of the newspaper thought it necessary to explain to the readers as to why the essay was accepted and printed in his journal. He wrote: "By printing it, we do not seek to reopen old wounds; on the contrary, we hope to open a new dialogue..."

In the concluding paragraph of his prelude, the editor of 'Independent' wrote:

"The last year has been full of fear and anger. We have all learned a little more about each other and about ourselves. It is now time to let reason and gentleness prevail."

Rushdie and his British supporters believe, as could be seen in the above quoted paragraph, that the passage of time will heal the wounds. Moreover, they implicitly point out that the reaction shown to the publication of 'The Satanic Verses', including Imam Khomeyni's 'fatwa' [decree], was devoid of reason.

The same stance is being maintained by Rushdie and his supporters ever since he was condemned by Muslims and their leader, the late Imam Khomeyni, for his writings. Moreover, Rushdie has refused to apologize and has made it known that he would not back donwn or be defeated over the anti-Islamic book, 'The Satanic Verses'.

In a telephone interview on Friday (April 27) morning with BBC Radio Four's 'Today' program, he once again claimed that what he did was legitimate.

Not taking into consideration the opinion aired by some observers that the BBC manipulated this interview for somehow linking Rushdie's case with the British hostages in Lebanon, or indirectly reminding the world that Rushdie's fate in Britain is not better than the hostages in Lebanon, we would like to point out that none in the world can revitalize Rushdie. Nothing can be gained by making Rushdie's apparition seen or heard on and off. Ghosts do not perform feats.

Paper Denies Rushdie Affair, Hostages Linked

NC1305084590 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 13 (AFP)—An influential Iranian paper Sunday [13 May] denied there was any link between the Salman Rushdie controversy and the fate of the British hostages in Lebanon.

"These two problems of Britain should be separated," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, which is considered close to Islamic hardliners. "The Rushdie affair is a question of dignity and principle for one billion Muslims ... while the solution to the affair of the British hostages in Lebanon depends on the attitude of London toward the Lebanese," the paper said.

In February 1989, Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni issued a death sentence against the British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses". The ensuing row between London and Tehran led to a break in diplomatic relations the next month.

The families of the British hostages, who are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalists, have linked the fate of the captives in Lebanon to the relationship between Iran and Britain.

They have urged Mr. Rushdie to apologize to the world's one billion Muslims for his book and to call off plans to publish a paperback version.

Fifteen Westerners are held hostage in Lebanon, including three Britons and Irish national Brian Keenan, who also holds a British passport.

Link Termed 'Irrational'

LD1305193790 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday ruled out any connection between the case of the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses' and the British hostages in Lebanon.

In an editorial 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' noted that Salman Rushdie's case was an ideological issue for the Islamic world since it has hurt the sentiments of one billion world Muslims.

The article termed as "irrational" any attempt to link the two issues and noted that a solution to the hostage crisis in Lebanon was up to the Lebanese.

But, the daily stressed, these are problems Britain is facing and that London should take measures to solve them. It said Britain should abandon its impudent support to Rushdie who has insulted Islamic sanctities and should surrender him to the world Muslims for punishment.

As far as the second problem is concerned, the solution lies in the attitude of the British Government towards the Lebanese, the daily concluded.

ECO Representatives Arrive in Tehran for Talks

NC1305062090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, the deputy foreign minister of Pakistan, and Mr. Tugay Ozceri, the deputy foreign minister of Turkey, arrived in Tehran this morning and were welcomed by our deputy foreign minister. They will participate in a special session of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO].

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Besharati, our deputy foreign minister, spoke to our correspondent and said: In the special session, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey will look at ways to expand economic and commercial ties. Mr. Besharati stressed that international and regional conditions decree that countries should expand their relations.

Omani Petroleum Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD1205160190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Mr. Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, Oman's minister of petroleum and minerals, this morning arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit and was welcomed by Mr. Aqazadeh, the oil minister.

On his arrival in Tehran, in an interview with our correspondent, he said: In this visit he will discuss with the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil minister issues regarding the world oil market, decisions made in the recent meeting of OPEC, as well as changes in the two countries' cooperation such as discovery of oil in their joint waters.

He also explained the grounds for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Oman as favorable. On cooperation of the non-OPEC oil producing countries with OPEC member countries he said: Oman supports the recent decision made by OPEC toward stabilization of oil prices with non-OPEC countries. He said Oman will cooperate with OPEC member countries for stabilization of oil prices.

The petroleum and minerals minister of Oman, in that interview, referring to the reduction of OPEC oil production, said: It is possible that the oil-producing countries who are not OPEC members, after consultations with OPEC member countries, will also make a similar reduction in their oil production as requested by the OPEC member countries.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1205160790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, this morning received Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs. At their meeting, in which our country's minister of foreign affairs Mr. Velayati was also present, Mr. 'Abdallah presented the message of Sultan Qabus and then submitted to our country's president a report on the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations. The report states that Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs arrived in Tehran yesterday and was welcomed by Mr. Velayati.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stresses Oil Price

LD1305172990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr Sa'id bin Ahmad Shanfari, the Omani oil minister. The Omani oil minister submitted a written message from Sultan Qabus and expressed his gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation as an active member of OPEC. He conveyed to the president his country's full readiness to discuss and expand ties in all areas.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed gratitude for Sultan Qabus' kind and friendly message, described the framework for cooperation between the two countries as positive, and stressed the importance of exploiting the two countries' joint resources.

Referring to the harm done by lack of coordination between oil-producing countries and the low price of oil, the president said: In our opinion, the true price of oil is much higher than the current price, and that is an injury inflicted on oil-producing countries. OPEC is the only body which can stabilize a fair oil price, and all member countries must strive toward that end, because the squandering of God-given reserves would constitute careless disregard for future generations, a blow to other Muslims, and a filling-up of oilmen's pockets.

According to the report, Mr. Aqazadeh, the oil minister, and the two countries' ambassadors were also present at the meeting.

Oman Reportedly Taking Mediation Role

LD1305203890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-al-Alavi, Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, had a meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. According to the radio of the Islamic Republic, in this meeting Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs submitted a message from Sultan Qabus to the president of the regime. He also submitted a report about the latest developments in the region. The visit of Yusuf Bin-Al-Alavi which has taken place following the visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Oman, and also following Oman's efforts for the re-establishment of relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic, is not unconnected with the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic.

Navy, Guards Begin Joint Military Maneuvers

LD1305183890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The first phase of the joint maneuver of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] Navy and the naval unit of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] was carried out in Persian Gulf waters today. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report from Bushehr:

[Correspondent] The first phase of the joint maneuver involving the second district of the IRI Navy and the naval unit of the IRGC was carried out in the presence of Commodore Shamkhani and entailed the staging of the instruction exercise for the operational commanders, communications cooperation exercises and ways of establishing contact, and operations involving the transfer of deep-sea divers to ports and harbors. The maneuver was staged by thousands of Navy and IRGC forces in flight, amphibious, and mine-laying squadrons, deep-sea diving logistical units, marines, and rangers. There was also a display of army and IRGC helicopters and the fighter units of the sixth hunting garrison. The maneuver covered the area from Ra's ol Motaf to the northeastern part of Kharg island, covering a length of 112 miles of the Persian Gulf.

Commodore Shamkani described the maneuvers as having operational and instructional aims, remarking: This is the first maneuver to be carried out in the northern part of the Persian Gulf in the form of a joint operation. It includes 30 instructional and eight operational targets, during which the fighting capability of the participating forces and the knowledge of the commanders will be appraised.

The commander of the IRI Navy also said: Among the best operations of this maneuver were the army-IRGC amphibious-surface operations, the use of aircraft against surface targets, and also the deployment of anti-submarine vessels which will be carried out in the course of the maneuver.

Combat Submarines Join Exercises

LD1305205590 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Bushehr, May 13, IRNA—Military games code-named 'Sahand' started in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf Sunday, involving the air and naval units of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The week-long maneuvers under the overall command of navy chief Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani will for the first time see combat submarines in action.

Shamkhani told reporters that the exercises will be carried out in eight stages in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, spread over a 10,000 square mile area, and are designed to test new training methods.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani 'Clique' Criticized

LD1305164490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] A number of radical Majles deputies, in a letter addressed to Hezbollah, have described Hashemi-Rafsanjani's clique as affiliated theorists [teorigarha-ye vabasteh-gara]. In this letter, Larijani, advisor to the foreign minister, and RESALAT newspaper are described as political bankrupts who are treading the path of the goals of the great Satan. The writers of the letter have also asked Ahmad Khomeyni to publish his father's letter against RESALAT.

In another letter which Majles radicals have writen to Khamene'i, they have strongly attacked the foreign policy of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government.

These positions adopted against Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his collaborators are continuations of another round of factional fighting in government circles which stems from the article written by Mohajerani and his support for the necessity of direct talks with America.

DPRK Delegation Arrives for Economic Session

Karrubi Receives Delegation

LD1205222690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Mr. Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the Committee for External Economic Affairs [as heard] of DPRK and Mr. Yi Mun-Hui, the chief of that country's cultural and foreign exchange commission, and their entourage met Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, in separate sessions, before noon today.

The chairman for the external economic affairs of DPRK, who is the head of his country's delegation in the second joint economic session between DPRK and Iran, having conveyed the warm greetings of his country's leader, government, and parliament, said: We consider the Iranian people to be our allies in our anti-imperialistic stand, and are certain that the Iranian

nation will, through its solidarity under the banner of Islam and under the leadership of His Eminence the Imam, achieve numerous victories. He voiced his country's contentment with the assistance and economic cooperation rendered by Iran, and expressed hope that, with help from the Majlis, the relations between the two countries, specifically in economic affairs, will attain greater dimensions.

Mr. Karrubi, in turn, remarked on the good relations between the two countries, saying: North Korea's leadership, government, and people have been among the very good friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution and in the course of the imposed war, and it is only natural that the two countries, which share many common goals in their fight against imperialism, should hold intimate and friendly relations. The speaker of the Majlis, referring to the formation of a joint economic commission, expressed hope that the convening of the second session will also produce fruitful results.

Mr. Karrubi in the course of his meeting with Mr. Yi Mun-Hui and his accompanying delegation, who have come to Tehran at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and on the occasion of the week of friendship, addressed them by saying: The exchange of high-ranking delegations between the two countries in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution is indicative of the proximity and intimacy between the two countries, and culturally their greatest common interest is their fight against the global powers headed by America.

Velayati Meets With Official

LD1305174390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kim Tal-Hyon, chairman of the DPRK external affairs committee, is currently in Tehran to participate in the second Iran-DPRK joint economic commission. In a meeting with Velayati today, he discussed bilateral cooperation in various fields and called for further expansion of ties between the two countries.

Velayati, in turn, termed the convening of the joint economic commission session a constructive and welcome move in the expansion of bilateral relations.

Besharati Discusses Relations

LD1305175290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The DPRK cultural delegation met with Besharati, our country's deputy foreign affairs minister, this morning. They discussed bilateral ties and international issues. In the meeting, the deputy foreign minister remarked that DPRK support has been in line with the anti-imperialist policy of the Islamic revolution and reiterated the need to continue this support. The Korean delegation head expressed his gratitude at continued Iranian support for the DPRK. He also stressed the need to rapidly implement UN Resolution 598 and voiced his country's support for it.

Aqazadeh Discusses Oil Industry

LD1305180290 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—The Oil Ministry is ready to train North Korean manpower and dispatch Iranian experts to help develop oil industries in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). An agreement to the effect is to be concluded after a final consent, it was announced here today following a meeting between Chairman of the DPRK Foreign Economic Commission Kim Tal-Hyon and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the trend of Tehran-Pyongyang economic ties placing emphasis on cooperation especially in oil industries.

The North Korean official arrived here Friday [11 May] at the head of a delegation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Minister

LD1305182190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Kim Chang-ho, North Korean commerce minister [title as heard], this morning. During the meeting the North Korean commerce minister conveyed greetings and a message from Kim Il-song, the North Korean leader. He referred to the basis for the expansion of ties between the two countries and asked for a further expansion of the two countries' ties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveyed reciprocal greetings to DPRK leader Kim Il-song and mentioned the DPRK's very good cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran during the war. He stressed Iran's wish to continue that cooperation during peacetime.

Our country's president expressed the hope that the two countries' joint commission will study the grounds for expanding ties and that, in instances where the possibility of cooperation between the two countries exists, North Korea will be given precedence.

Ending the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized unification of the two Koreas and added: Iran will do what it can. According to the report, Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh and the two countries' ambassadors were also present at the meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Pakistan

LD1205162390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent on the fifth session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission taking place in Islamabad on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] At the end of the work of the fifth meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission, today before noon, a memorandum of understanding was signed on cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Present at the final round of the talks at this session were economics and finance ministers of Iran and Pakistan as well as members of the various joint committees from the two countries. At that final round, the two parties agreed to increase their cooperation, in line with their potential resources, in the fields of trade, commerce, transport, human resources, communications, culture and higher education, customs, taxation issues, shipping, and other existing fields.

The two countries also signed an important agreement on tax exemption for shipping activities. Another result of the fifth meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Commission is the decision to survey and approve the cultural program of the two countries during the next two years. The agreement covering that issue had already been signed. According to that agreement the two countries are to have close cooperation in the fields of culture, art, training in sciences and technology, physical training and sports, and finally radio and television.

Among other points included in the said memorandum is the provision of necessary facilities for passengers as well as freight passing through land customs, especially in the regions of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan. On that issue the two countries have agreed to set up joint border marketplaces in which the border people of both countries—without having to cross to the territory of the other country—can sell their produce and buy what they need.

Nurbakhsh, Pakistan Minister Meet

LD1205174490 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 12, IRNA—Iranian Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh met Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan here today, where the two stressed expansion of mutual cooperation, particularly within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

"Deep and friendly relations between the two countries greatly help regional stability," Yaqub Khan said in the meeting, and praised Iran's stance vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue.

Nurbakhsh in reply expressed hope that agreements reached by the two neighbours during the 5th Joint Economic Commission would be materialised.

He also enlightened the Pakistani foreign minister regarding the hurdles thrown by the Iraqi regime, and said the Islamic Republic is seeking a lasting peace through full enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598.

Iran and Pakistan inked a letter of understanding and a protocol at the end of their 5th Joint Economic Commission meet today, which stipulates expansion of bilateral ties in all fields.

Nurbakhsh, who arrived here Wednesday on a four-day visit, has conferred with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Nurbakhsh Discusses Memorandum

NC1305083390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 May 90

[Interview with Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh by unidentified Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Correspondent] The fifth session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission concluded in Islamabad, Pakistan with the two countries signing an agreement. This memorandum was signed on behalf of Iran by Mr. Nurbakhsh, the economic affairs and finance minister, and by the minister of state for economic affairs and finance for Pakistan. Mr. Nurbakhsh, please explain the highlights of the aforementioned memorandum.

[Nurbakhsh] In general the agreement signed between the two countries includes the accord signed earlier regarding activities pertaining to cultural and border exchanges, waiving of reciprocal levies, and shipping between Iran and Pakistan.

In the field of commerce, the two countries agreed to increase the volume of commodities now being exported or which will be exported, in light of existing possibilities between the two countries. We discussed purchasing rice and other goods from Pakistan. Pakistan wishes to purchase pharmaceuticals and buses and industrial facilities that we can provide. These are among the points that will be considered in the trade sector.

[Correspondent] What is the planned volume for trade?

[Nurbakhsh] In general, about $400 million, which is only a general ceiling, not a limit. We reached some useful agreements on conveying passengers and on border exchanges, and it was decided that air routes between Quetta and Mashhad should be established soon so that Pakistani pilgrims can be transported to Mashhad. Regarding the consensus on border exchanges, the customs departments in both countries agreed to provide easier travel for passengers and to set up border markets. This will certainly have a very favorable effect on the regional and border economy.

Editorial Views Tense Situation in Kashmir

NC1105171290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "In 3d Party's Interest"]

[Text] New Delhi and Islamabad are worrying about the possible outbreak of a new war between their troops along the line dividing Kashmir between them. News reports on the incidents of shooting, artillery fire and the resulting casualties are increasing and tension has risen considerably over the last few weeks with both countries accusing the other of preparing for war.

The two countries' armies shoot at each other almost daily in the strategic sectors but casualty figures are rarely reported.

The heightened tension comes under conditions that the foreign ministers of the two countries are in New York to negotiate on the issue in response to U.N. diplomatic efforts.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars before, two of which were over the Jammu-Kashmir region. Now, with renewed increase in tension in Kashmir the outbreak of another war in the absence of self-restraints by the two countries does not look very remote.

News reports on the conditions of the two countries along the strategic line dividing the two are sketchy and contradictory. The Indian news agency, Press Trust of India, quoting that country's military sources accuses Pakistani troops for opening fire while Pakistani sources put the responsibility for the clashes on Indians. But what can lead to another full-fledged conflict between the two countries are the growing number of deaths and the wounded.

Concurrent with the tension and the possibility of war between the two countries, Iran and Bangladesh were the first countries to invite the two sides to exercise restraint and resolve differences through negotiations.

U.S. government sources' reaction to the tension has been mixed and unclear. In one instance they say that the chances for a war are remote and small and in just another they say that the conditions can get out of control at any time. But experience with regional disputes have shown that in almost all of them one of the two superpowers had a hand.

Reports speak of U.S. efforts to encourage the Indian government to suppress the Muslim Kashmiris. A dispatch by the same news agency said the U.S. is helping the Indian government in drawing up new (hostile) measures against the Jammu-Kashmir Muslim leaders. This report is not very far-fetched since the U.S. has demonstrated its enmity toward Muslims time and again.

Despite the harsh measures by the Indian government against Muslims in Kashmir, it is becoming increasingly more clear that the measures would not return calm to Kashmir and on the contrary, would contribute to more tension and new sources of problems between the Indians and Muslims in other Muslim parts of India.

The consideration of the legitimate demands of the Muslims by the Indian government done with opening the door of negotiations with their leaders will certainly produce positive result in the resolution of this old problem. And any war between Pakistan and India will weaken either of the two countries in the interest of third parties, particularly the U.S.

Italian Sale of Warships to Iraq Criticized

NC1105144290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Italy and Its Commitment to Protection of Peace"]

[Text] Italy, a country enjoying an international reputation for its peace efforts, has agreed to dispatch 11 advanced battleships to Iraq. Baghdad had placed the order for the ships with Rome in the early 80s but the latter had withheld from delivering them out of a commendable commitment not to hamper peace negotiations and escalate tension in this region.

Now the decision to deliver the ships has, to some extent at least, obscured the respected status of Italy as a peace loving nation.

The sanction for the dispatch of the ships has been issued at a time when:

1) Western-acquired statistics testify to the fact that even after Iran's acceptance of the peace Resolution 598 in August 1988 Iraq has been on top of the list of arms purchasers in the world and that an unbelievably high 10 percent of the whole transacted arms in the world have ended up in Baghdad.

2) Iraq is continuing to openly sabotage the U.N. sponsored peace negotiations. According to diplomatic sources the situation has much aggravated because of Baghdad's incessant efforts in mass production of chemical weapons, gaining atomic capability and acquiring long- range missiles capable of carrying chemico-nuclear warheads.

3) Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's out-of proportion zeal to acquire as large an arsenal as possible and his thirst for nuclear weapons and his open admission to have used toxic weapons are now a constant worry of all those concerned with world peace. In spite of the U.S. explicit and strategic support for Iraq even the American Secretary of State James Baker has taken Iraqi threats of vast use of chemical weapons as "very serious and worrisome."

Now amidst this has come the very unbecoming decision of Rome to deliver the advanced battleships to Baghdad. It has come at a time when even Eastern and Western supporters of Iraq are quite cautious of Iraqi war policies and international circles now talk of imposing a careful monitoring over Iraqi arms purchases. Besides, according to the United Nations the arming of the Iraqi regime should be avoided altogether because of its disdain for and irresponsible approach to the peace initiatives of the U.N. and the person of Secretary General

Perez de Cuellar. And it is of course a peace-negating move to arm either party during the highly sensitive ceasefire period in any war.

Isn't the Italian decision to make delivery of the ships to Iraq openly contradicting the international peace efforts and will it not escalate tension in this highly explosive part of the world? Will it not help the triggering of another war in the region?

The Islamic Republic however for its part will have no hesitation in defending its rights and will decisively guard its national security and the Persian Gulf peace.

The Italian policy-makers should now ask themselves. Will they contribute to regional peace by dispatching the warships to Baghdad? Or, will they choose to cooperate with the U.N. in peace efforts and support the secretary general's move to get the peace resolution 598 implemented, a resolution in whose compilation Italy played an effective and peace-loving role?

Editorial Urges Evaluating Technological Capability

NC1105144590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Nation's Technological Capability Should BeCarefully Evaluated"]

[Text] Absorption of technology, the right dosage of it and at the proper time, is a crucial point for all developing nations.

Meanwhile, the technological gap between the so-called peripheral societies and those branded as central is widening beyond imagination. Developing nations like Iran, should be aware of the fact that the technology train has perhaps already left the station. But there is still a lot to be done not to lose sight of it.

Import of machinery and erection of new factories alone do not signify a nation's industrialization as noted rightfully by the Minister of Heavy Industries Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan.

The minister addressing a self-industrialization seminar recently stressed one should not allure oneself as having become industrialized merely on the number of factories and deluge of machineries about the country.

The minister's remarks are welcome as he called for what has been regrettably ignored over the past decade, i.e. a true assessment of the nation's technological capacity lest we get ourselves enmeshed in a technological web the handling of which may be beyond our capacity.

To launch extensive efforts to discover the country's technological capacity and industrial management power is then a must for the government and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, before launching any extensive technology venture.

In the past, however, the production and consumption of steel and energy were the main gauge for evaluating a nation's industrial clout and capacity. But not any more, as technology is the name of the game these days. In th)s sense technology means a nation's know how capability, and the ability to produce and improve its productions in an ever advancing direction.

In this line it must be noted that these are lots of industrial powers prepared to grant us licenses to produce various products without the transfer of technology. This will leave us at their mercy and dependent for good. To ensure we are on the right track of technology and industrialization the country should invest heavily on training industrial managers and determine its technological standing. This should enable the government to spot the pros and cons of large scale technological projects in a much brighter light and determine if it can handle them in a way to enhance the present technological structure and at the end achieve an integrated network of technology.

To appreciate in what fields we are able or unable to absorb technology is a big step in itself that will save us huge amount of labor and capital. In fact no country can master all fields of technology. We should concentrate on those realms of technology that are coherent with and cognization of our domestic resources and capabilities.

With this in mind we will be able to put ourselves on a sound technological path.

Editorial Says Bush Felicitation 'Commendable'

NC1105161190 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "A Commendable Act"]

[Text] If it was the intention of the U.S. President George Bush to go on record as the first American president who sent a message of felicitation to the U.S. Muslim citizens on the occasion of their religious festival, the 'Id al-Fitr, it should be acknowledged that he succeeded in doing so.

But considering the fact that another Western leader the French President Francois Mitterrand did the same unprecedented act of congratulating his Muslim countrymen on their religious holiday, it would be sheer naivety to look at the events with the above outlook.

Anyway, it is good news that two prominent world statesmen thought it necessary to demonstrate to the Muslims living in their countries that they are acknowledged as a religious minority.

The truth is that this change of attitude towards the Muslim minorities has taken place in many countries after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. In the first year of its victory the birthday of the prophet (SAWA), [peace be upon Him and His scion] was declared a national holiday in India.

The greatest achievement of the Islamic Revolution was that it made the Muslims of the world realize that they are not what the West and the East wanted them to believe: inferior to the followers of other religions or doctrines; or to put it in mild words: second class citizens.

The awakening, particularly in the educated and younger generation, of Muslims that they possess te most modern and superior doctrine resulted in making them discard the negative effects of the centuries old campaign that was carried out by the enemies of Islam against their religion.

Moreover, the bizarre attempts of the West in launching a cultural war against Islam by publishing 'The Satanic Verses', produced results contrary to what was intended. The timely action of the late Imam Khomeyni in nullifying that satanic plot went a long way in reviving the identity of the Muslims as the followers of a living religion—not a dead one, as they were made to believe.

Nevertheless, the positive step taken by Mr. Bush and Mr. Mitterrand is commendable.

Paper Views Labor Relations, Praises Workers

NC1105160790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 2 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "May Day Remembered"]

[Text] Tuesday May 1st marked International Labor Day. Like their colleagues throughout the world, Iranian workers celebrated the day across the country. In his address on this occasion, Iranian Labor Minister expressed hope that the country would witness the continued efforts of its laborers in the fields of production and construction during the postwar period.

No doubt that the advances in Iran's first five-year economic and social reconstruction plan depend mainly on the work force of our committed workers whom during the past 11 years, and specially in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, proved their loyalty to the Islamic Republic by both their endeavors behind the battlefields and in the forefront of combat theaters as well.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government should take measures for the welfare of the country's workers whom presently suffer from hyperinflation and unemployment.

Quick ratification of the articles of the new labor laws, which is currently being debated by the members of Expediency Council, could be considered as a major step toward the improvement of workers' job regulations and conditions as well as rules governing relations between employees and employers.

Since capitalist and socialist labor regulations have not been able to safeguard the true rights of workers, thus tne new bill on labor laws—intended to be compatible with the Islamic traditions and Sharia—would be the only actual protector of workers' rights in Iran.

Another initiative which must be rapidly put into action is selling of the shares of government-owned factories to the laborers who work there. This measure will increase productivity as well as the financial power of the workers.

In addition to legal and financial support, the government should pay a greater attention to workers' education and training. To better and further increase our industrial output, we have to have well trained and educated workers.

Due to the implementation of Iran's first post-revolution development plan, the next five years will be, perhaps, the most crucial era in the history of Iran. Gigantic industrial and agricultural projects as well as postwar reconstruction goals need massive labor force and, therefore, workers and their issues must be quickly dealt with.

*Students Warned Against Un-Islamic Acts

90AS0046F London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 2

[Text] In a press conference, the deputy for information and operations of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee warned Iranian high school and university students to avoid un-Islamic acts. He threatened that the record of a high school or university student who engages in offenses will be contained in his educational history.

The threat of the deputy of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee to high school students is considered to mean their restriction from university education because at present, even though such an action has not taken place, many talented students are prevented from entering the universities for reasons of religious and moral incompetence.

This threat occurs in the wake of anti-regime demonstrations three weeks ago by high school and university students in Mellat Park. In the skirmishes with guards, 65 of them were arrested.

IRC Launches Campaign Against Un-Islamic Deeds

LD1005190790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpts] The exercise of the project to campaign against Monkarat [deeds which are religiously prohibited] was begun today throughout the country. According to an IRNA report, the officer in charge of the office of the Campaign against Monkarat in the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] said that the said exercise, which will last for a period of 20 days on a wide scale, will identify those invididuals who do not observe Islamic dignities and their background will be recorded in a computer. [passage omitted]

The superviser of the Office of the Campaign against Monkarat added that on the basis of instructions of the interior minister which have been given to the governor-general of Mazanderan, the project for the [moral] sanitization of the Caspian Sea will be implemented.

Officials Tighten Dress Code, Other Regulations

LD1005131690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] With the commissioning of the plan to combat unlawful acts, the supervisor of the head office for combating unlawful acts, in an interview with reporters, announced that all private premises, whether companies, restaurants or hotels in which Islamic sanctities are not observed will be identified by Islamic Revolution Committee guards, and details of those not complying with the hijab [Islamic dress code] will be registered in a computer.

He added: In the first phase of the plan only those who have repeatedly committed the offence will be introduced to the judicial sources, and their files will be processed by the Islamic revolution courts.

The supervisor of the head office for combating unlawful acts, while warning those who own cars with darkened glass and motorcycle riders who commit offences, said: The occupants of official vehicles should also abide by Islamic and moral regulations. He added: The plan for the control of mountains and parks will be implemented as of tomorrow morning, and we ask the ever-present-on-the-scene people to cooperate with the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards and avoid making direct contacts with bad hijab elements.

According to a Central News Unit report, an Interior Ministry statement announced that all private premises, including shops, boutiques, agencies, health-treatment saloons, restaurants, hotels, hygiene and treatment centers are dutybound to observe the contents of the statement on purification of private premises, and those in charge of the premises are responsible for the precise implementation and its control. In cases of carelessness they will be dealt with decisively.

The statement also obliges the diciplinary forces, when they control private and public premises, to hand over those committing offences to the Islamic revolution courts.

MKO Leader Rajavi's Assassination Condemned

*Resistance Comments

90AS0046E London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 2

[Text] The Iranian National Resistance Movement, under the leadership of Shapur Bakhtiar, condemned the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi and considered this assassination proof of the weakness and meanness of its instigators in confronting the existing problems.

The text of the communique of the Iranian National Resistance Movement is as follows:

"On Tuesday, 24 April of this year, Dr. Kazem Rajavi, one of the leaders of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, was assassinated in Switzerland. Although the perpetrators of this assassination have not yet been identified, based on the history and similarity of previous political assassinations, everyone is pointing an accusatory finger at the Islamic Republic.

"The Iranian National Resistance Movement, despite its differences of opinion and political policies with the Mojahedin-e Khalq, condemns terrorism strongly and considers it proof of the weakness and abjectness of its perpetrators and their intellectual and political impotence in confronting the problems."

*Reza Pahlavi Deplores 'Cowardly' Act

90AS0046D London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 2

[Text] The office of Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, issued a press release strongly condemning the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, calling it another example of the terrorist nature of the Tehran regime. This communique condemns the assassination of any political figure regardless of political and ideological differences, which must be judged by the Iranian nation.

The text of this communique is as follows:

"The assassination of Mr. Kazem Rajavi in Geneva once again revealed the terrorist nature of the Tehran regime. He is the fifth political figure opposing the regime to be assassinated abroad since Rafsanjani came to power.

"We condemn this cowardly assassination and that of any political figure, regardless of his ideology, ideals, and beliefs and hope that political and ideological differences are put to the test in the political arena of Iran by the free judgment of the nation alone.

"This assassination is another warning to all free countries of the world not to be deceived by the shows of the blood-spilling regime, which today is forced to pretend moderation. Instead of making efforts to reconcile with that regime, they must take a decisive and humanitarian position in regard to the violation of the trampled rights and freedom of the Iranian nation."

*Khamene'i Attacks Iranians Living Abroad

90AS0046A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] During ceremonies for the Fitr holiday in the Jamaran religious center on Friday of this week (7 Ordibehesht [27 April]), Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the regime of the Islamic Republic, attacked Iranians living abroad, calling them the political waste, the escapees, the defeated, and the political garbage, who sit in the bosom of their masters here and there around the world sticking their heads out and ask each other: What's the news of Iran, what's the news of Iran?

Khamene'i, extremely angry about the propaganda programs of Iranians against the regime, added: "The news is the news of Jerusalem Day in Iran. The news is the news of 11 February in Iran. The news is the unity of the people and their standing up against the conspiracies of the

enemies." Addressing the Iranians, he added: "They should not be content with false hopes about the differences and factionalism among the officials of the country."

Khamene'i denied the existence of differences between the factions of the regime, and addressing the Iranians abroad, he said: "What differences? What factionalism? Of course, in a living society people have the right to freely express their opinion. People are close to the officials.... In such a society, differences of opinion are normal and inevitable. There are varying political and economic views. But they are varying views on the same subject. The government that you hope and wish for and the one that you make propaganda about, that is, factions who bother and oppose one another, is a different matter. The latter does not exist and will not exist. The Islamic society cannot have two factions among its ranks, among those who have faith and believe in these goals, that want to destroy or get rid of each other. This is impossible."

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i spoke anxiously about what has been written and said concerning the influences on the Iranian society of the freedom movements in Eastern Europe. In order to quell any speculation on the possibility of freedom movements in Iran, he claimed that essentially all such movements stem from the Islamic revolution of 11 years ago; hence, there is no threat to the regime of the Islamic Republic. He said in this regard:

"Today it is popularly believed that the era of nations has begun. This is what is said in the world in regard to changes and reforms. The reason is that in various parts of the world, various nations have rebelled against the dominant dictatorial regimes, dominant for having imposed themselves on their people. The nations forced them either to step aside altogether or to modify their methods and policies. I say that the era of nations has not begun today. The determination, will, and true power of the nations began from the day that our revered, brave, and praiseworthy nation was able to rise up not only against one regime but against the alliance of the East and the West, against the powers and superpowers, to establish the Islamic regime."

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i also spoke about the concept of "deprivation." He does not consider deprivation to be in terms of economic poverty, lack of living resources, and destitution. Rather, he calls a person "deprived" when that person does not worship God, does not submit to God's will and refuses to fast in the month of Ramadan. He added: "The main thing is that the Iranian nation which rose up for the sake of God and stepped on the path of God must become godly and rely on God in order to be able to attain its ultimate goal, with the help of God, God willing." He did not specify the path that the Iranian nation must take with the help of God, but he strongly rejected the material world.

Continuing his speech, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i claimed that the Islamic Republic has not failed in any area so far. He said:

"Thank God, during this period we have not failed even on one scene, and our enemies have been defeated. They began through military war, but they were unable to force the Iranian nation and this regime to retreat. Is this not defeat?"

Khamene'i thanked God for having given Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Iranian nation, and calling other officials God's gifts, he said:

"The people support this government and the officials and competent managers of this country, who are truly gifts from God. Whenever I call to mind such a president, as I have frequently told my friends, I thank God from the bottom of my heart. I thank God with all my being. The people must appreciate him, as they do, and cooperate and support their officials strongly, as they do. Undoubtedly, the economic embargo and various treasons of the United States and its cronies in economic areas will be totally ineffective. All the problems that exist will be resolved with the competent hands of the faithful officials who have the support of the people. There is no doubt about this. That is, our enemies abroad are well aware of this judgement of the Iranian nation. Those who are not intelligent and require more time to understand, those who do not understand your power, let them come forth and see your power on a day such as Jerusalem day."

Political observers consider the unprecedented attack and harsh remarks of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i regarding Iranians abroad, his references to the changes in Eastern Europe and the overthrow of the dictatorial regimes, and his denial of the rumor of conflicts in the regime as evidence of the deep anxiety of the leaders of the government concerning the present conditions in the country.

*IRGC General Headquarters Appointees Announced

90AS0046G London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 2

[Text] Last week, the new deputies and officials of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] General Headquarters were appointed as follows: 1. 'Ali Larijani, successor to the director of the General Headquarters of the Guard Corps. 2. Ghafur Haj-Salem, deputy for plans and programs of the General Headquarters. 3. Akbar Ghamkhar, logistics deputy of the General Headquarters. 4. Mohammad 'Ali ('Aziz) Ja'fari, deputy for the operations of the General Headquarters. 5. Mohammad Sattari-Vafa'i, engineering deputy of the General Headquarters. 6. 'Alireza 'Andalib, deputy for manpower of the General Headquarters. 7. Morteza Izad-Panah, coordinating deputy of the General Headquarters. 8. Ahmad Vahidi, information deputy of the General Headquarters. 9. Amir Hayat-Moqaddam, deputy for training of the General Headquarters. 10. Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyn Tash, commander of the Emam Hoseyn University. 11. Mostafa Rabi'i, director of communications of the General Headquarters. 12. Dr. Ahmad Shoja'i, health director of the General Headquarters. 13. Mohammad Reza Shahaboddin, financial director of the General Headquarters.

*Air Force Commander's Resignation Reported

90AS0046H London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 2

[Text] Musa 'Arefan, Air Force commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC], resigned last week.

After the resignation of Musa 'Arefan, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, appointed a member of the Guard Corps Air Force by the name of Hoseyn Dehqan to take his place.

IRNA did not announce the reason for the resignation of Musa 'Arefan, the former commander of the Guard Corps Air Force.

*Population Growth Rate Double of World Average

90AS0046I London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 4

[Text] The population of Iran had an average annual growth rate of 3.91 percent between 1355 and 1365 [21 March 1976-20 March 1987], and the rate of this population growth was more than twice the average population growth of the world.

The Iranian statistics center announced some time ago, in its 24th publication of "Selections on Statistical Matters," that based on the general population and housing census for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], more than 1.2 million people were employed in construction, of which 700,000 resided in cities and 500,000 in villages.

The above-mentioned publication states: While based on the general census for 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] about 13.8 (percent) of the employed 10 years and older were women, this ratio in the next 10 years, that is, up to 1365, decreased significantly, dropping to 8.9 percent.

Based on the 1365 census, the highest percentage of jobs was in agriculture, with 51.2 percent in the Province of Gilan and the lowest in Tehran Province, with 4.8 percent.

The Iranian statistics center states clearly in its statistical report that in order to maintain the level of unemployment at the present rate, about 378,000 new jobs need to be created annually in the country.

The above-mentioned center writes: In 1950, of the 15 most populated countries in the world, eight were developing, whereas at the present, this number is 10 of the 15, and by 2050, it will reach 13.

The experts of the Iranian statistics center believe that from now until 2025, Iran and Ethiopia will be added to the list of the 15 most populated countries, and Germany and Italy will be removed from the list. In 2050, Kenya, which is the 38th most populated country in the world, will rank 15th, and Japan will drop from its rank of seventh.

*Hajj Dispute With Saudi Arabia Reported

90AS0041C London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] In a group petition, 140 Majles deputies asked the Saudi Arabian government to permit 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to take part in the hajj rites this year, and to relent in its stringent practices.

While the Saudi government has seriously stood by its former position, in this statement the Majles deputies called upon the Saudi officials not only to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims (three times the number accepted by Saudi Arabia), but to allow them to stage political demonstrations during the pilgrimage to "purge the polytheists" [bara'at as moshrekin—a hajj ritual]. At the same time, the deputies asked that a blood price be paid for the Iranians killed during the hajj riots three years ago.

In addition to all this, the 140 deputies called upon Saudi Arabia to acknowledge its "crimes" in the killing of the Iranian pilgrims, and to return the impounded assets of the pilgrims.

These conditions are being set for the participation of Iranian pilgrims in the hajj rites at a time when the Saudi Ministry of the Interior has already set the figure for the number of pilgrims allowed from each country, and has said that these quotas, which were approved by the representatives from all the Islamic nations at the Islamic Conference, cannot be changed under any circumstances.

Saudi officials also view any form of political demonstrations as against religious principles, and have announced that they will deal with them harshly.

We note that during the hajj rites three years ago, 402 pilgrims were killed by Saudi agents in the riots that took place, 275 of whom were Iranian. The participation of Iranian pilgrims in the hajj rites was stopped after that year.

In their statement, the Majles deputies did not mention the beheading of 16 Kuwaiti Shiites (10 of Iranian extraction) who were charged and punished last year for planting a bomb in Mecca.

In the latest reaction by Saudi officials to the statement from the 140 Majles deputies, a spokesman from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Religious Endowments announced that Saudi Arabia is absolutely unwilling to adjust the hajj quotas, which are set at one pilgrim per 1,000 population per country.

This spokesman also emphasized that this government would not allow sabotage or disturbances in the hajj rites, and that under no circumstances would it bow to the threats of the Islamic Republic.

*Report Details New Year's Shortages, Problems

90AS0041B London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Despite promises given by officials of the Islamic government to improve conditions, and especially the

promise to the people for elaborate provisions for the New Year holidays so that the people would be able to pass the holidays in relative comfort, reports from Tehran indicate extreme chaos and disorder in economic and social conditions during the first week of the new year [21-28 March].

At the beginning of a special report titled "Year Begins with Problems for Travel and New Year's Visits," the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN writes:

"In the first few days of the year the ears of our compatriots in Tehran, the Municipalities, and the farthest reaches of the country were jarred by the discordant notes of problems such as high prices in all forms and dimensions, shortages of means of shipping and transportation, problems obtaining tickets, seats, and lodging for trips to Tehran and the municipalities, high prices charged to the people by some drivers and urban transportation services, the elimination of many New Year's traditions and rites due to increased prices, disorderly conditions in hotels, lodges, and roadside restaurants, and heavy traffic and traffic jams on some Tehran streets."

Tehran KEYHAN adds: "As in every year, although perhaps more extensively and abundantly than in previous years, the holidays brought with them fundamental social and economic problems. That situation was aggravated by the lack of resources for recreation and entertainment, the lack of appealing television programs, films, and serials to fill the important part of the free and leisure time."

"The people were held in the grip of high prices and unbridled profiteering in the marketing of public services to the people in the first days of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]."

The high prices of clothing, shoes, and comparable goods deterred many New Year's shoppers from buying goods.

The involvement of the committees in the procurement of basic food and provisions such as meat, eggs, etc. and the high prices of these goods on the free market had the effect of putting many compatriots in dire straits at the beginning of the new year. In the procurement of special New Year's Eve foods, from sweets and nuts to fruits and vegetables, the same tale of high prices was repeated.

Travel Problems

Tehran KEYHAN writes: "Not the slightest control was exercised over the prices of various services and goods during the holidays." In this chaotic market, many people were forced to pay 1,000 tomans per person for travel fares from Tehran to Karaj or Qazvin, and many people were obliged to go by truck or lorry rather than by bus. To go from Tehran to Gorgan by truck or lorry the fare was at least 400 tomans per person.

Within Tehran, even the Vahed Bus Company increased many of its official fares 10 fold. The cost of hiring mini-vans from Saveh to Seh Rah-e Azari in the first hours of the evening was increased eight fold.

Food Procurement Problems

Due to the fearsome high prices of sweets and nuts, many people did not obtain these basic provisions for New Year's entertaining so they might be able to buy other ordinary necessities, but were even faced with shortages and high prices in the procurement of basic foodstuffs.

A government worker told KEYHAN: "During the New Year's holidays, some stores in the cities and villages did not distribute foodstuffs needed by the people as they should. The situation for grains and their distribution was disorderly during the holidays. Although it had been announced previously that shahr [city] and rusta [village] and Qods stores would be distributing grains and foodstuffs at government prices, several days before the New Year most branches of these stores were empty of grains and other goods needed by the people, or the goods sold out and became scarce as soon as they were offered."

The Meat Problem

During the holidays the rationed distribution of meat practically stopped everywhere. The people told the correspondents and newspapers that after 18 March few Tehran stores were selling rationed meat, and the people who left home to buy meat on the last day of Esfand [20 March] went home empty-handed after hours of waiting and wandering. The Molla Sadra store even had an announcement posted on the door: "Closed until 4 April."

In its report, Tehran KEYHAN writes:

"In any case, throughout the holidays of the first few days of the new year, everyone could do as he wished, and in the course of this the dust of all this market chaos and disorder settled for our compatriots, and after a month of working and effort, the aim of purging fatigue and enjoying the holidays was achieved."

*New Ambassador to Romania Appointed

90AS0041J London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Four months after the Romanian revolution and the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu, which brought with it the failure of the Islamic government's former ambassador to Bucharest, finally the Islamic Republic has sent another person to Romania as ambassador.

'Abdol-Rasul Mohajer-Ketabchi, whose background in diplomatic work is not known, has been appointed to this position by 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Mohammad Jamshid Gowhari, the Islamic government's former ambassador in Romania, was the victim of the Islamic Republic's policy of close ties to the fallen Romanian regime, and after recalling him from Bucharest he was also fired from the Foreign Ministry, and was made a scapegoat so that Velayati could emerge unscathed from the Majles interpellation.

Nepal & Bhutan

King's Constitution Commission Brings 'Dismay'

BK1105123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 11 May 90

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, May 11 (AFP)—Politicians and leaders of Nepal's new government Friday [11 May] reacted with dismay to a unilateral announcement by King Birendra that he had formed a constitutional recommendation commission. The palace communique read early Friday on state radio named a seven person commission containing democrats, leftists and royalists and stipulated that the group would work within the framework of a constitutional monarchy and a multiparty system.

The communique had been issued without prior consultation with the new multiparty government, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said, despite the fact that negotiations on the formation of the commission were under way.

"The procedure was undemocratic, clumsy ... we will not let it pass, we will take the matter up with the king ... but we will sort it out," Mr. Bhattarai told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview.

The prime minister said he had tried and failed through the king's principal secretary to postpone any announcement until negotiations were completed.

"It has created an unfortunate situation, we will have to take a stand," he said, but did not directly challenge the makeup of the commission headed by Supreme Court Justice Biswa Nath Upadhyaya.

Other politicians reacted more heatedly than the prime minister, with veteran communist leader Mana Mohan Adhikari saying: "If this commission has been constituted without consulting the prime minister and the cabinet, it is a completely undemocratic and dictatorial move by the king."

"We will not allow the king to ignore the cabinet," Mr. Adhikari said, adding that the United Left Front (ULF), a grouping of seven left and communist parties represented in the month-old government, would protest the move.

"Very disastrous," said Sahana Pradhan, chairperson of the ULF and minister for commerce and industry in the coalition government, shortly before a cabinet meeting. "There should have been equal representation in the commission and there should have been prior discussion in the cabinet."

Mr. Bhattarai said if he had used his powers as prime minister to go against the orders of the principal secretary and stopped Radio Nepal from broadcasting the communique it would have created "an unnecessary furore." He said he would discuss the matter with the king as soon as possible, but feared that the king too had got himself into a position where he would have to stand by what he said.

Several observers here predicted, that despite Mr. Bhattarai's optimism that it could be "sorted out," the move could create a new political crisis in Nepal unless the king retracted the communique.

Said one: "A new phase in the battle has opened up." [passage omitted]

Draft Constitution To Be Sent to Cabinet

BK1205011090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1918 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 11 (AFP)—King Birendra pledged Friday [11 May] that the draft of Nepal's new constitution would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval, Prime Minster Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said after talks with the monarch here Friday. The two met in a bid to defuse the row sparked by the king's announcement earlier that he had unilaterally appointed a constitutional recommendation committee to draft the document.

Mr. Bhattarai told reporters that he was shocked when he heard the official anouncement over the state radio that the commission had been formed without consulting the coalition government. But Mr. Bhattarai said that the king had assured him during their meeting that the draft of the constitution prepared by the commission would be forwarded to the Cabinet for its approval.

"If at all the Cabinet does not like the draft recommendation of the constitution it could be rejected by the Cabinet," Mr. Bhattarai added, citing the king.

After meeting the king at the royal palace, Mr. Bhattarai held closed-door discussions with his Nepali Congress colleagues including party leader Ganesh Man Singh and General Secretary G. P. Koirala.

The premier said despite his objections to the fact that it was announced unilaterally, the principle of establishing a constitutional recommendation committee was "a great achievement." Members of Nepal's new government and other political figures had reacted with dismay to the kings announcement, with veteran communist leader Mana Mohan Adhikari calling it "completely undemocratic and dictatorial."

Mr. Bhattarai met with leaders of the United Leftist Front (ULF), which groups seven left and communist parties and is a partner in Nepal's coalition government, before his talks with King Birendra.

"I have conveyed their anxities to the king," he said. "Though there had been expression of their anger, I hope our ULF colleagues would cooperate with the Nepali Congress on this issue."

But ULF member Bharat Mohan Adhikari, one of the royal nominees to the consitutional recommendation

commission, announced his refusal to participate. "I strongly oppose the formation of the constitutional recommendation commission undemocratically," he said in a statement. "The question does not arise of my cooperating with it."

The seven-person commission formed by the king comprises democrats, leftists and royalists, and is headed by Supreme Court Justice Biswa Nath Upadhyaya.

Coalition Leaders Call for New Constituent Panel

BK1305002190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 12 (AFP)—Ruling coalition Nepali Congress leaders late Saturday [12 May] called on King Birendra to name a new panel to draft Nepal's constitution in consultation with the interim government. The Nepali Congress leaders issued the call after a three hour meeting which included Prime Minister Krisna Prasad Bhattarai and top party leader Ganesh Man Singh.

The call came as an estimated 1,500 demonstrators marched in Kathmandu and about 5,000 gathered in the satellite city of Lalitpur to protest the king's unilateral naming Friday [11 May] of a constituent panel despite a six-hour curfew still in force.

Party Spokesman Basu Risal said the centrist Nepali Congress believed the king's move was "against the spirit of the practices followed in a constitutional monarchy of a multi-party system."

"Taking into consideration the prevailing mood of the Nepalese people under such delicate circumstances, Nepali Congress appeals to his majesty to reconstitute the constitutional drafting commission in consultation with the present interim government," said a statement read by Mr. Risal.

The former opposition Nepali Congress is the senior partner in a coalition government named April 18 after a seven week pro-democracy movement in this Himalayan Mountain kingdom which opposition sources said left as many as 500 dead. The movement was aimed at installing a multi-party system after three decades of the partyless panchayat system.

Leaders of the United Left Front—the Nepali Congress's left-wing partner in the interim government—also issued statements attacking the king's move. Other left-wing groups, including student groups which were at the vanguard of the seven-week democracy movement, also called for scrapping the 24-hour old panel and naming a new one in consultation with the coalition government, student sources said.

The seven-person commission formed by the king comprised democrats, leftists and royalists, and was headed by Supreme Court Justice Biswa Nath Upadhyaya.

In a bid to defuse the row over his naming of the panel, the king had told Mr. Bhattarai Friday that the draft of Nepal's new constitution would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

King Mobilizes Army, Police Near Palace

BK1305140490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 13 (AFP)—The Army was mobilized and truck loads of riot police were stationed in a street near the royal palace Sunday [13 May] apparently as a preventive measure, witnesses in the Nepalese capital said. The move came as King Birendra and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai are to meet Monday [14 May] in an effort to defuse a looming political crisis over a proposed constitutional drafting commission.

By early evening no violence had been reported.

Sources meanwhile said the king is expected to announce Monday morning that he would form the constitutional drafting commission with the approval of the coalition government headed by Mr. Bhattarai.

King, Premier To Meet on Constitutional Commission

BK1305171490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 13 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai will meet here Monday [14 May] in a bid to avert a crisis over the king's unilateral announcement of a constitutional recommendation commission, a spokesman said. Nepali Congress Party spokesman Basu Risal announced the meeting, which will come two days after the first protests against the king since the two-month, pro-democracy movement in Nepal ended on April 8.

The demonstrators, 1,500 in Kathmandu and 5,000 in neighbouring Lalithpur, were protesting Saturday [12 May] that the king had Friday [11 May] bypassed the government in announcing the formation of a seven-member constitutional recommendation (drafting) commission. The king was expected to reconstitute the commission in line with advice from Mr. Bhattarai in an effort to defuse the looming crisis, sources here said.

Two of the seven members named by the king, Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari of the United Left Front (ULF) and Mr. Daman Dhungana, youth leader of the Nepali Congress, both lawyers, had Saturday announced their resignations from the commission.

The street protests, the resignations and the reaction of the two parties which make up the government as well as the extreme left parties had prompted the palace to announce the talks, the sources said.

Mr. Bhattarai's Congress Party, the leading partner in the 27-day-old government installed last month after the king had bowed to pro-democracy protests, Saturday had

appealed to the king to withdraw the announcement. Mr. Bhattarai himself had said Friday that he had no major quarrel with the content of the declaration, but expressed dismay that it had been made without prior consultation with his cabinet.

The ULF, the junior partner in the government, had reacted angrily to Friday's announcement calling it "dictatorial" and demanded its dissolution.

The anti-monarchist far left, the United National People's Movement (UNPM) Sunday [13 May] issued a strongly worded statement saying "the composition and manner of making this declaration categorically proves the feudal and autocratic and revivalist forces are trying to consolidate state power in their own hands." It called on the people to take to the streets again, saying there was no other way but "to resume agitation."

At least one Nepali newspaper Sunday blamed the problem on the ineptness of the palace press secretrary, and charged that it could have been averted if the announcement had been delayed until after being cleared by Mr. Bhattarai and his cabinet.

Meanwhile the local administration withdrew a six-hour night curfew in the Kathmandu satellite town of Lalitpur after 20 days. The curfew on the capital and neighbouring Kirtipur, imposed after the killing of six policemen in mob-police clashes, had been lifted Thursday [10 May].

Queen Relinquishes 'Controversial' Council Post

BK1105162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 11 (AFP)—Nepalese Queen Aishwarya on Friday [11 May] relinquished her most controversial post, that of head of the Social Service National Coordination Council (SSNCC), Radio Nepal announced. The radio at the same time broadcast a palace communique bitterly criticizing foreign press reporting which it said "defamed" the Nepalese royal family on the basis of "street rumors" circulating in Kathmandu.

The broadcast said King Birendra, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, had appointed Labor and Social Welfare Minister Nilamber Achariya as temporary head of the SSNCC. Queen Aishwarya had held the high-profile post since the SSNCC, which covered all non-government social organisations, was founded by the king 15 years ago. It was her main public platform.

Sources close to the government here said the queen had made a brief emotional speech at a farewell appearance in front of the SSNCC Friday. In the speech she denied as false allegations that she had used the post to accumulate vast wealth or that she was involved in politics.

Wall posters during the two-month-long violent pro-democracy campaign here, which culminated April 8 with the lifting of a 30-year ban on political parties in Nepal, had been harshly critical of the queen.

Diplomats here have noted that while portraits of both monarchs are displayed prominently in government buildings, many small private businesses have displayed only the king's portrait since the success of the pro-democracy movement.

Mr. Bhattarai's government, the first multi-party government in the country for 30 years, is on record as saying it wants to retain the monarchy as a constitutional monarchy with limited powers.

Until April 8 those criticizing the monarchy or any royal family member in the press or at a public function faced a prison term of between three and 12 years. One editor was imprisoned for misspelling the queen's name.

Minister Travels To Investigate Police Shooting

BK1405064490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 14 (AFP)—A Marxist-Leninist minister in the month-old multi-party government flew to western Nepal early Monday [14 May] to investigate a bizarre police shooting incident which left one dead and two injured. Home Ministry sources said that Jhala Nath Khanal, minister for forests and soil conservation, was aboard a helicopter which left the capital early Monday for Burtiwang village in Baglung Town 264 kilometers (165 miles) west of here where the firing took place Sunday.

The incident took place as Marxist-Leninist activists along with students held a communist-organized rally to protest King Birendra's unilateral announcement Friday that he had formed a seven man constitutional recommendation commission. A junior police official who had been ordered transferred because of "excesses" during the two-month-long pro-democracy movement walked past the area where the demonstrators were holding their rally, the sources said. The leftists first jeered him then grabbed him, demanding that he walk round the village with his face blackened before leaving.

To disperse the angry mob and rescue their colleage, police first baton charged the demonstrators then opened fire killing one activist on the spot. Two others suffered bullet wounds in the firing.

Angry mobs in Kathmandu battered to death six policemen last April 23 and captured the home minister and police chief for more than six hours, protesting police excesses and alleged police collusion with gangs of thugs known as "mandales" in the pay of the former partyless Panchayat regime.

The Marxist-Leninists are one of seven communist parties grouped in the United Left Front (ULF), junior partner to the Nepali Congress in the month old government installed when King Birendra bowed to the pro-democracy movement and lifted a 30-year-long ban on political parties.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Bhutto Tour, Kashmir, Afghan Issues

BK1205162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is leaving Islamabad on 15 May on a tour of eight Islamic countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa—Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia—where she will exchange views on matters of common concern, including Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine. The prime minister will also visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, and Bahrain the first week of next month. Negotiations are under way for similar visits by the prime minister to other Islamic countries.

Today in Islamabad, announcing the prime minister's proposed tour, a Foreign Office spokesman said the Islamic world is beset with a host of grave problems at the moment. He referred to the sufferings of the Kashmiri people who are demanding their right of self-determination as pledged to them by the United Nations. Pakistan is being threatened with war for supporting the Kashmiri people's cause. He said our 5 million Afghan brethren are living as refugees and our Palestinian brethren are still suffering at the hands of the most aggressive and unjust state in world history. There is a danger of the occupied Arab territories being turned into a colony, while the sanctity of Jerusalem is facing new challenges. Moreover, there is the question of establishing durable and lasting peace between Iran and Iraq, while the Cyprus issue is a cause of concern for us. A new international system is emerging as a result of changes that are now taking place on a global level. It is, therefore, very important for the Islamic community to take note of these changes and adopt a stand which is in the best interest of the Islamic world and the Arabs.

The spokesman said that during the prime minister's tour regional and international issues will be discussed in detail. This will be a tour of peace and will not be directed against any third power, he added.

The spokesman said: The Kashmir problem is very important for Pakistan and we wish to hold discussions with leaders of host countries on all aspects of the Kashmir situation, because Islamabad enjoys strong relations with these countries, which have stood every test of time.

Referring to the grave situation in occupied Kashmir, the spokesman said: Although we do not think that there is a danger of war, we cannot ignore the repeated threats from India's highest-level leadership. We have also noted a gradual concentration of Indian troops and an increase in their military preparations on the control line along the international border in Punjab and the Rajasthan-Suratgarh area in the south. It is therefore necessary to take steps to avoid military confrontation which will be harmful for both sides.

The spokesman added that Pakistan has emphasized the need for a dialogue on the Kashmir issue in the spirit of the relevant UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement, but, unfortunately, India's response to this proposal has thus far been negative. During the prime minister's upcoming tour, we will exchange views on all possible ways and means to deal with the current situation.

The spokesman said the prime minister will hold discussions with Muslim leaders on basic elements of a resolution on Afghanistan, which will be presented at the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization scheduled to be held on 13 June.

The spokesman further said that following the rejection by India of a Pakistani proposal for a neutral mechanism to check allegations of interference in occupied Kashmir, Pakistan intends to unilaterally invite congressmen, parliament members, journalists, and writers from all over the world to come and see for themselves whether or not any training camp of Kashmiri mujahidin exists in Azad Kashmir or on Pakistani soil. A prominent British scholar on South Asian affairs will soon visit Pakistan and on his return will present a report on this issue at a major seminar on South Asia to be held at Oxford.

Answering a question, the spokesman said the U.S. Government is deeply concerned over the deteriorating security situation in South Asia and senior officials of the U.S. Administration will pay a visit to Pakistan on 20 May. A U.S. congressman, Stephen Solarz, is expected to visit Islamabad and New Delhi by the end of this month.

The spokesman added that Pakistan is considering writing a letter to the president of the UN Security Council to apprise him of the current situation in the region and sending more representatives and messages to other countries in this connection.

Yaqub Khan: Pakistan Wants To Dispel War Clouds

BK1205162990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, says Pakistan wants to dispel clouds of war that seem to be gathering on the Indo-Pakistan sky. In an interview published in THE HINDUSTAN TIMES today, he suggested that troops concentration along the Indo-Pakistan border be thinned out and both sides withdraw the forces to peace-time position. He said meeting of bodies, like the one on Sir Creek boundary, should be resumed and the accord on Siachen reached between the two defense secretaries last year be implemented.

Accord Signed With Iran To Expand Cooperation

BK1205163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding in Islamabad to further expand cooperation in various fields. These include economics, finance,

trade, agriculture, communications, oil, customs, manpower, education, science and technology, and cultural sphere. A program for cultural, scientific, and technical exchanges and an agreement on reciprocal tax exemption on income generated by shipping enterprises of the two countries were also signed.

Iranian Minister Hails Meeting

BK1305093290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The Iranian minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, has described the decisions of the just concluded Pakistan-Iran joint ministerial commission as far reaching. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad before his departure for Tehran yesterday, he said these decisions would help translate the existing the political goodwill into economic and trade relations.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for finance, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, said Iran has agreed to buy sugar plants and 200,000 tons of cement from Pakistan. In addition, Iran has also agreed to provide electricity to such areas of Balochistan which are adjacent to it.

Earlier, the Iranian minister had separate meetings with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the adviser to the prime minister for economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffrey. They discussed reactivation of the economic cooperation organization and measures to step up bilateral cooperation.

Navy Chief Leaves on 10-Day Trip to PRC

BK1305085390 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The chief of naval staff, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik, left Islamabad today for Beijing on a 10-day official visit to the People's Republic of China. He is undertaking the visit to China at the invitation of the naval commander of People's Liberation Army, Vice Admiral Zhang Lianzhong.

Law Minister Departs for Official Visit to PRC

BK1305061790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Law and Justice Minister Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani left Islamabad for Beijing on a week's official visit to China today. During his stay in China, he will exchange views on the steps to expand cooperation between the two countries in legal and judicial fields.

Bhutto Moves To Ease Tension With Punjab Chief

BK1105135390 Karachi DAWN in English 11 May 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 10—The political committee of the ruling party, met here on Thursday [10 May] under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and discussed various measures to reduce Punjab-Centre tension and start a "new era" of goodwill specially in the wake of escalating confrontation with India.

The political committee, comprised besides Prime Minister, Jahangir Badar, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Khawaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim, Colonel (Retired) Ghulam Sarwar Cheema and Ahmad Saeed Awan, reportedly reached the consensus that Centre-Punjab relations should be improved.

The Prime Minister told the committee that everybody in the Government should try to evolve working relationship with the Punjab Government and that the two-member committee of Malik Qasim and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani should strive hard for settling issues with the Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif. The meeting between the Chief Minister and the two-member committee will be held in Lahore on May 12.

"The Prime Minister has expressed her keenness to resolve all issues with Punjab and wished that there must be some working arrangement with the province in the larger interest of the country," Malik Mohammad Qasim told DAWN.

"She has instructed us to use our best efforts during the meeting with the Chief Minister and said she never wanted any confrontation with any province" he added.

The Prime Minister is also said to have desired removal of all grievances of Punjab and Balochistan in connection with the allocation of funds in the annual development programme for 1990-91.

In a related development Malik Mohammad Qasim had a meeting with Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad here on Wednesday [9 May] and discussed with him steps to remove Centre-Punjab confrontation. Mr. Wasim Sajjad is believed to have offered his full support in his reconciliatory efforts.

Malik Qasim may also talk to [Awami National Party Chief] Khan Abdul Wali Khan in Peshawar preferably before meeting the Punjab Chief Minister to seek his support for his mission.

The political committee meeting lasted for about three hours during which many issues including the lastest wave of violence and terrorism in Karachi, bomb blasts at various places and internal disturbances were also discussed.

However, they expressed their resentment over a half-page advertisement published in Thursday's [10 May] newspapers accusing Federal Government of wasting millions of rupees by not providing railway wagons to Ittefaq Foundaries [owned by Nawaz Sharif].

Reconciliation Talks Held

BK1105135990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] A meeting between the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and a member of the national reconciliation committee and federal housing minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, was held in Lahore today. The meeting continued for one and half hours. Various matters to improve working relationship between the center and the province were discussed. The reconciliation committee was set up by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, last night to evolve a better working relationship between the federal and Punjab governments. Later, talking to a Radio Pakistan representative, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani described the meeting as extremely fruitful. He hoped that positive results would follow for improving the working relationship between the federation and the province. He said the provincial chief minister, who is also the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] chief, had (?worked out) a formula to make a better working relationship between the center and the province.

Hekmatyar: Afghans Not To Accept Imposed Solution

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[Text] Peshawar, May 10—Eng. [Engineer] Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami has rejected moves for a reported rapprochement between Washington and Moscow over the future of Afghanistan and said the Afghan nation will not accept any super imposed solution of the conflict.

In an interview on his return from Afghanistan on Thursday [10 May], Mr. Hekmatyar predicted an early fall of Najib and establishment of an Islamic order in Afghanistan. He said mujahidin are not ready to accept any offer of dialogue or anything short of the removal of Najib.

Responding to question about the ongoing and forthcoming US-USSR talks for possible agreement over the Afghan situation, Hekmatyar said: it will have no binding effect on the mujahidin.

He said that the mujahidin will not accept any foreign-imposed decision as it is for Afghans to decide their own future as an independent nation.

Replying to another question about UN-sponsored repatriation of Afghan refugees plan he said that refugees are not ready to return to any government-controlled areas unless Najib steps down. The refugees will only start coming back when they hear of Najib's fall in Kabul. So far as the return of refugees to the mujahidin-controlled liberated areas was concerned, the HEA [Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan] leader maintained it can only be accomplished when all mujahidin leaders reach a consensus.

For this purpose, be reiterated his stand that mujahidin should hold elections in their controlled areas to form their own 'shuras' [consultative councils].

Afghan Interim Government President Meets Bhutto

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[Text] Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the Islamic Afghan Interim Government, had a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. They exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs and national security, was also present at the meeting.